

Argentina offers to host conference

TEL AVIV (R) — Argentine President Carlos Menem proposed Buenos Aires Wednesday as a venue for a U.S.-planned Middle East peace conference. A spokeswoman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, asked about news reports of the offer, said: "He suggested this. We thanked him and said we would think about it." Mr. Menem, making the first visit to Israel by an Argentine president, was born to Syrian parents and has offered to mediate in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Czechoslovakia, Egypt, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States are among the countries proposed for a peace conference. Washington hopes to convene this month. Mr. Shamir said Mr. Menem was ready to work for the release of Israeli servicemen held in Lebanon and for the cause of Syrian Jewry. An Israeli statement said Mr. Menem promised to raise the matters in forthcoming visits to Egypt and Tunisia and later to Syria.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جودان تيمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Protests in Tehran, rebels say

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Iranian opposition group said Wednesday widespread anti-government protests — some of them violent — have been reported in the Iranian capital Tehran following strikes that shut many gasoline stations this week. Several demonstrators and at least one member of the government's Revolutionary Guards were killed and a large number wounded Tuesday afternoon in one clash, the Mujaheddin-Khalq of Iran said in a statement sent to the Jordan Times. "Tensions throughout the capital are running high," said the statement of the rebel movement. It confirmed the protests would be the latest public demonstration across the country. The Mujaheddin statement said the latest protests erupted after the gas station strikes began Sunday. Sporadic clashes continued Tuesday as Revolutionary Guards troops sought to quell the demonstrations, the statement said.

Ensur meets Pankin at U.N.

NEW YORK (Petra) — Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour met Wednesday with his Soviet counterpart Boris Pankin and discussed with him efforts to resolve the Middle East problem. The two ministers also discussed relations between Jordan and the Soviet Union and ways of enhancing them. Dr. Ensour and Mr. Pankin are currently in New York to take part in the U.N. General Assembly meetings.

Fahd holds talks with Egyptian president

JEDDAH (AP) — King Fahd received Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Wednesday for talks that follow contacts involving the two countries and the Soviet Union. Diplomats noted that Mr. Mubarak has just returned from a trip to Moscow, where the role of the Soviet Union in the Middle East peacekeeping process figured prominently. Mr. Mubarak's visit was preceded by a shuttle between Cairo and Moscow by the Saudi ambassador to Washington, Prince Bandar. The diplomats said they believed this involved a financial arrangement that may help ease Egyptian debt burdens to Moscow as well as the Soviet need for financial assistance from the oil-rich Gulf.

Israel, Mongolia establish relations

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Israel and Mongolia established diplomatic relations Wednesday at a meeting of their foreign ministers at the United Nations. The two countries have not previously had diplomatic ties.

Israel seeks Egyptian help

CAIRO (AP) — Israel asked Egypt on Wednesday to join the United States in helping reverse the U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism. Cairo said the issue should be postponed until a Middle East peace conference begins, U.S. President George Bush recommended in his address to the U.N. General Assembly last month that the resolution be repealed. Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin supported the call. The Israeli-Egyptian exchange came in a meeting between Butros Ghali, Egypt's deputy premier for foreign affairs, and a delegation representing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud faction in the Knesset, the Jewish state's parliament. "We asked Dr. Ghali to try and change the U.N. resolution," said Sarah Boron, the faction head who is leading the delegation. "On principle he agreed, but there are some problems about the timing."

Allied commanders arrive in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — U.S. and British military teams touring the Gulf states arrived in the emirate Wednesday for talks with Kuwaiti officials. General Joseph Horst, successor to Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf as commander of the U.S. military Central Command in Tampa, Florida, said his trip was a "get acquainted" visit. He did not elaborate. Gen. Horst met with Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

First direct flight of Soviet emigrants lands

LOD (AP) — The first direct flight carrying Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union arrived in Israel Wednesday, a day late and amid a cloud of confusion. The flight, billed as a new chapter in immigration history, landed at Israel's Ben Gurion airport at 7 a.m. (0500 GMT). It brought eight immigrants and officials of the Soviet charter company Aeroflot that is running the flights. No dignitaries were on hand to greet the newcomers Wednesday. After Transport Minister Moshe Katrav, Soviet diplomats and scores of journalists waited in vain at the airport Tuesday to welcome the flight with an official ceremony. Aeroflot officials said the Tuesday flight never arrived because it had failed to get clearance to fly over Turkish airspace.

Cabinet change awaits top-level consultations

National conference to be held on Oct. 10

By Narmeen Murad and Caroline Faraj

AMMAN — The future of Prime Minister Taher Masi's government continued to hang in the balance last night as top-level consultations centred on a national conference slated to be held within a week to prepare Jordan for Middle East peace talks. Until late last week, only a limited cabinet reshuffle had been contemplated with the aim of dropping ministers who oppose the talks. But the picture changed somewhat this week, and any change in the cabinet was held up until consultations were completed for the Oct. 10 national conference, which would be modelled around last June's parity on the National Charter and which would be addressed by His Majesty King Hussein.

Majesty King Hussein.

The high-level consultations, which were conducted mainly at the Royal Palace and involved former prime ministers and leaders of the main political groups in the country, have not yet concluded on whether a limited cabinet reshuffle would be all that Jordan needed ahead of the proposed peace conference or a more broadly-based cabinet would be formed to be ready for the challenge of negotiations.

"His Majesty the King is keeping all his options open ahead of the impending talks," said one well-informed source. "While a limited or a major reshuffle in the Masi cabinet remains a strong possibility, other options have not been ruled out," the source said. Several press reports in the

past two weeks predicted an imminent government reshuffle, which would include four serving ministers who had expressed their intention to resign for "ideological" reasons related to Arab-Israeli negotiations.

Observers and analysts attributed the idea of a major change instead of a limited reshuffle in the government partly to the feeling of confusion that accompanied the resignation of the four ministers and the discussion of the cabinet reshuffle in the press often in contradicting terms. Another important reason is that some Jordanian politicians are calling for a broad-based government which would be able to confront the challenges of Arab-Israeli talks the analysts said.

Which change will eventually take place depends on the con-

tinuing consultations leading up to the national conference, which all political groups from Islamists to liberals are expected to attend. "The King will present a key address in which he will outline Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the peace process and the principles Amman will never drop during the talks," one official source was quoted by Reuters as saying Wednesday.

In return, the King expects to get a popular endorsement of Jordan's decision to attend the peace conference, the source added.

More than 1,500 elected Jordanians — senators, deputies, heads of municipal councils and other dignitaries — attended the June conference. The delegates were selected to reflect the views of Baschists, communists, conservative tribesmen, Muslim fundamentalists and liberals.

Former Prime Minister Ahmed Obaidat, who has been closely involved in the consultations at the palace and who headed the National Charter commission, said in a statement he made to the Jordan Times and its Arabic daily Al Rai, that he expected this conference to be more comprehensive than the June parity so that the King's address would reach a wider audience. He said he believed the Jordanian public was interested in reaching a peaceful settlement and would be able to withstand the pressures of such a solution. He added that he believed that all the concerned Jordanian institutions should also have a role in the peace process and its outcome.

He expressed hope that the government would be able to formulate a "strategy or a clear vision with concrete foundations" to be able to deal with the details of this phase in regional developments and its different stages.

In answer to a question on whether there have been negotiations to form a cabinet that included former prime ministers Mr. Obaidat said that this political concept was adopted in the

fifties "but may have become redundant now."

The late prime minister Said Mifti formed a "prime ministers' cabinet," a form of a national salvation government in 1957 but analysts point to the different circumstances which warranted that step in the fifties when the country was in turmoil and needed the strength of major political figures at the time.

Mr. Obaidat said that he believed that the delay in announcing the cabinet reshuffle in Mr. Masi's government is borne out of the necessity of reaching a "final and suitable picture." He did not elaborate.

Speaker of the Senate Ahmad Lawzi confirmed the meetings between the King and political personalities but said that these were consultation meetings to assess the political situation and plans for the future.

He denied press reports which predicted that King Hussein would form a committee of wise men made up of former prime ministers and other prominent political personalities to work as a consultative body to the King.

"As far as I know there is nothing of the sort," Mr. Lawzi said.



Shamir says Mideast peace conference near

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Wednesday he believed the United States was close to convening a Middle East peace conference. "Generally if there won't be any unexpected obstacles, we are close," he told reporters. "Washington plans to call an Arab-Israeli peace conference this month but its efforts have bogged down over such details as who will represent the Palestinians."

Mr. Shamir, who demands a veto over the Palestinians with whom Israel will sit, said he still had no information. "We don't know yet any names. We didn't get any proposal like that."

Israeli government sources expect Mr. Shamir will ultimately attend the two-day peace conference, which is meant to lead to bilateral talks with Israel's Arab neighbours and with the Palestinians. But he may call elections as early as February or March if negotiations intensify over the future of Israeli-occupied land.

The United States, Israel's closest ally, insists any peace deal include the return of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Mr. Shamir's ruling Likud Party opposes withdrawing from the occupied territories.

Mr. Shamir also said he expected Israel would eventually receive the guarantees it is seeking from the U.S. Congress for loans worth \$10 billion. The Bush administration, anxious not to alienate Arab states ahead of a peace conference, has held up the loan guarantees, which are meant to help Soviet Jewish immigrants.

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U.N. inspector: Iraq could rebuild nuclear programme

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq has the technology, skill and equipment to revive its nuclear programme and produce weapons-grade nuclear material, U.N. officials said Wednesday.

David Kay, head of the U.N. inspection team which left Baghdad saying it had proof of an Iraqi nuclear weapons programme, told Reuters in Bahrain much of the programme was destroyed in Gulf war bombing raids, but he added:

"They certainly have the technology and skill... the question is the material which they have dispersed and hidden and we have not completely found."

Mr. Kay, who is in Bahrain analysing evidence of Baghdad's nuclear programme, accused Iraq of concealing material for uranium enrichment — a first step towards nuclear weapons production.

"If you didn't have an effective monitoring verification programme and they get started it would certainly give them bomb material," he said.

As Mr. Kay spoke at the Bahrain field headquarters for U.N. inspection teams flying in and out of Iraq, a team of missile experts arrived in Baghdad on the latest mission to ensure Iraq declares and scraps all its weapons of mass destruction in line with the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire.

Mr. Kay, whose team was blocked in a Baghdad car park for four days in a showdown over seized records of the Iraqi nuclear programme, said the programme could not have been for peaceful purposes.

He said Gulf war bombing had destroyed most of the equipment Iraq used to enrich uranium,

Jordan: If Israel is serious for peace it should end settlement

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Jordan Wednesday implicitly challenged Israel to prove its seriousness vis-a-vis efforts for a just peace in the Middle East by putting an end to its settlement activities in the occupied Arab territories.

"Jordan considers that the best measure of Israel's seriousness in approaching the peace process lies in its putting an end to its illegal settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights," Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour told the General Assembly in a speech.

"Such activities are not only in contravention of international conventions but will also result, if they continue in their present form, in destroying the essential element in the peace formula," Dr. Ensour said.

The foreign minister referred to Jordan's consistent support for all efforts and initiatives for a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and said that the Kingdom's commitment to a peaceful solution to the problem stemmed from its recognition of the "benefits to be

derived from peace and the dangers inherent in the continuation of the existing state of no-war-no-peace."

"Jordan declared unequivocally its insistence on the right of the Palestinian people to participate in (the proposed peace) conference through representatives nominated by them of their own free will," Dr. Ensour said. "It also accepted a formula for Palestinian participation through a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, should the Palestinian side agree, but leaving the

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Hamas rejects PNC decision

By Mariam M. Shakhin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The decision of the Palestine National Council (PNC) last week to approve Palestinian participation in a U.S.-brokered Middle East peace conference was condemned Wednesday by a Muslim fundamentalist organisation as a decision that does justice to the Palestinian people since the proposed talks offer a "liquidation" of the Palestinian issue rather than a settlement of it.

Spokesman of the Islamic re-

German stabbed to death in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An unidentified assailant Wednesday stabbed to death a tourist from Germany and injured a second German in Jerusalem's historic Old City, police said.

The identity of the victims was not immediately known. Police spokeswoman Anat Grant said the second tourist suffered moderate injuries and was rushed to hospital. Witnesses said the woman was taken away wearing an oxygen mask with a male friend holding her hand.

Police closed off the area, and witnesses said police rounded up dozens of Arabs as suspects or possible witnesses. They were lined up in two groups, one of more than 50 men, and another of about 15 men, all wearing red shirts, after witnesses said the attacker wore such attire.

Police chief Haim Albades said the attacker stabbed the victims in two small cafes just inside the Damascus Gate leading into the Old City.

"At about 4:30 p.m. ... people were sitting in a cafe and a man approached and stabbed a woman who was sitting with her boyfriend," he said. "Then he ran to another cafe about 20 metres away ... he stabbed another woman, another tourist."

Mr. Albades added that both victims apparently were from Germany. Damascus Gate is one of the main entrances into the historic area. It is frequently crowded with both tourists and local people.

An hour after the slaying, the body of the dead woman was still at the scene, covered with a blue blanket, with only feet clad in black sandals visible.

PNC nodded to participation in peace conference but also left room for backtracking

By Lami K. Andoni

THE DECLARATION of the Palestine National Council (PNC), which met in Algiers last week, gave a green light for Palestinian involvement in the U.S.-led peace process, but stopped short of a full-fledged commitment to Palestinian participation in the proposed peace conference.

A reading of the declaration that won a majority vote of the Palestinian parliament-in-exile indicates that even though its writers refrained from using any conditional terms it nevertheless kept the door open for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to opt out if an adequate Palestinian representation at the conference was not guaranteed.

An adequate Palestinian representation, as outlined in the PNC resolutions, does not necessarily imply a direct or a viable PLO involvement in the process. Instead the PLO is seeking a formula that will ensure the representation as a nation vis-a-vis individuals who can be part of an

Arab delegation.

Accordingly, the resolutions reiterated previous PLO demands that it name a Palestinian delegation which should include Palestinians from the diaspora and from inside the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, and determine the Palestinian negotiating position throughout the process.

"The PLO will be the reference point for the Palestine delegation," the final PNC statement said.

The term "reference" is used to ensure that the Palestinian negotiating team represents its "government" — i.e. the PLO, and to meet half way the American stipulation that the PLO play no direct role in the conference.

The PNC's terms of Palestinian representation have deliberately avoided a definition of the form of Palestinian participation, leaving the door wide open for the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

The leadership, however, was cautious not to commit

itself to any form of participation and instead focused on the terms that will ensure a level of independent representation, according to Palestinian officials.

The PLO's insistence on adequate representation was not put forward as a condition — again to meet another American demand that the PNC's acceptance of the peace conference be unconditional. But the PNC's declaration has outlined an alternative mechanism that is supposed to allow the PLO to disengage Palestinians if need be.

According to this mechanism, a reading of the declaration shows the PLO leadership — in this case mainly the PLO Central Council — will have to reassess the peace process in the light of objectives outlined for each of the different stages.

Another aim behind the PNC's outlining of specific goals reflects Palestinian concern that the peace process will come to a halt at one stage without a final settlement of the Palestinian problem. The biggest fear,

according to Palestinian officials, is that the process will end after getting to the transitional period, whereby there is supposed to be some sort of self-rule for the Palestinians, preventing them from seeking complete sovereignty.

PLO officials decline comment on whether the PLO will attempt to halt the process if these objectives — which were presented as conditions prior to the PNC — were not attained.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The PLO's deliberate refrain from making its position clear is one way of maintaining a margin for manoeuvre. Yet, at the same time, the response to the question will largely depend on many other factors which have influenced and still influence the PLO decision.

These factors include Palestinian public opinion, mainly in the Israeli-occupied territories, the internal balance of power, and the PLO's assessment of the

minimum that it can afford to accept against increasingly external pressures which are emerging as a major element in PLO decision-making. At least in theory, the PNC declaration gives the PLO a chance not to commit itself to Palestinian participation until the last minute.

PLO officials have been very clear at the PNC that an acceptance in principle of the peace process coupled with an attempt to negotiate for better terms, prior to a final commitment, could be the only option to save the PLO's role or to enable the Palestinians to press for Palestinian national rights at the negotiating table.

"We should not say yes or no — not now," Fatah Central Committee member Khaled Al Hassam told the session twice, reflecting a broad implicit understanding among most trends that the PLO will have to come to terms with the American-led peace process and struggle to get a better deal.

But the question that poses itself is: Will the PLO be able to control the process in a

way that will allow it when to say yes and no? The resolutions tried "to control or more accurately to regulate the process" by defining specific objectives to the three phases of the peace process — i.e. the preparatory phase, the transitional period, and the final stage supposedly leading to a final settlement.

The objectives defined for the first stage are in effect the key preconditions that, from the Palestinian viewpoint, will first determine Palestinian participation in the peace conference and will also serve as an important initial indicator to the direction of the peace process.

These objectives, which were mentioned in other resolutions, and emphasised by the PLO officials to be the key, are:

— A comprehensive and adequate Palestinian representation as mentioned earlier on.

— A halt in Israeli settlements.

— Arab Jerusalem will be considered, in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions,

as an inseparable part of the Israeli-occupied West Bank. It is difficult to tell what the minimum compromise that the PLO will accept on these three issues. The problem, as many officials point out, is that any compromise on any of these three issues can make the peace talks meaningless and reinforce Palestinian fears that the peace conference will only legitimise the status quo.

So far, although there has been no serious formal international Palestinian discussions of the issue, there seems to be two views among those who have endorsed the PNC resolutions.

Some PLO officials argue that the absolute minimum that the organisation should accept is proper representation. If such an objective is secured then the Palestinians will put their fight for the rest of the goals at the negotiating table. Some will go as far as that if the PLO itself was accepted as a partner all other conditions will be dropped immediately.

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Israel has delayed release of Arabs, SLA leader says

BEIRUT (R) — Israel has suspended further Arab prisoner releases, a step towards ending the Middle East hostage crisis, until it receives more information on missing Israelis and their militia allies, according to an Israeli-backed militia chief.

General Antoine Lahd, whose group controls Israel's self-declared border "security zone" in southern Lebanon, told his South Lebanon Army (SLA) radio station:

"We requested confirmed information on SLA members and the missing Israelis held by fundamentalist organisations in Lebanon."

The SLA runs the jail holding the 350 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners whose release is demanded by groups holding up to nine Western hostages.

Gen. Lahd, whose interview was also published in Beirut newspapers Wednesday, said no confirmed information had been forthcoming.

"Therefore, we decided to suspend exchanging captives until we receive confirmed information on the missing," he said.

Six Israeli servicemen are missing in Lebanon and several SLA soldiers are held by anti-Israeli guerrilla groups.

Three Western hostages, two Britons and an American, have been freed since a United Nations mediated effort to end the Middle East hostage crisis began early last August.

But the leader of Hizbollah (Party of God), believed to be an umbrella for the kidnap groups, hinted on Tuesday that no more Western hostages would be freed until Israel took "big steps" to release Arab prisoners.

"Israel is so far acting as if there was no comprehensive deal to solve the issue. All Arab prisoners regardless of their nationality have to be freed," Hizbollah Secretary General Sheikh Abbas Musawi said.

"The issue of the prisoners and the hostages is moving towards a final solution but things are only



Antoine Lahd

at the beginning. There are complications and counter-complications, actions and counter-actions and conditions and counter-conditions," he said.

"When we feel that big steps are taken by Israel, then we will start thinking seriously."

Fundamentalist sources say Israel must free some of the prisoners to reciprocate last week's release of British hostage Jack Mann.

Israeli hostage negotiator Uri Lubrani and pro-Iranian sources in Beirut said last week Israel would soon receive information on Yossi Fink, one of two soldiers held by Hizbollah.

Political sources said Gen. Lahd's comments seemed to reflect the requested information had not yet been passed on. But the "Radio Free Lebanon" radio station quoted Sheikh Musawi Wednesday as saying Hizbollah held an Israeli "captive" and more than three SLA members. Hizbollah has used the term captive in the past stressing that it does not imply the person involved is dead or alive.

Israel freed 51 Arabs and handed over the remains of nine guerrillas on Sept. 11 after saying it received information that one of its missing soldiers was dead.

'European firms involved in Iraq's nuclear programme'

BAHRAIN (AP) — Many foreign companies, mainly European, helped Iraq develop its secret nuclear weapons programme, a senior U.N. investigator said Wednesday.

Data gleaned from 25,000 pages of documents seized in Baghdad by the governments concerned — but it will be up to them to name the firms, U.N. Special Commissioner (UNSCOM) Deputy Chairman Robert Gallucci said.

"There are a lot of foreign companies involved," he said in an interview. "This is not simply an indigenous Iraqi programme."

The 44-member UNSCOM team, headed by David Kay, was in Iraq last week. The mission was marred by a standoff with Iraqi authorities who held the team up in a parking lot for four days in a dispute over the documents that detail the extent of Iraq's nuclear weapons programme.

Said Mr. Gallucci: "There is a lot of indigenous work in the programme but there are a lot of foreign companies whose pieces of equipment one sees as one moves from building to building."

Asked if these included European and American firms, he replied: "Certainly European."

He added: "I, myself, have not seen specific pieces from the United States."

He refused to identify the companies that cooperated with Iraq either by name or nationality. "Our policy is to inform governments rather than the public," Mr. Gallucci said. "If the governments wish to make it public that's their business."

Recent press reports have suggested that several European companies, and possibly American ones, were involved in Iraq's efforts to develop nuclear weapons. Israeli reports have named Yugoslavia, Algeria and Pakistan as countries that aided Iraq's programme.

Mr. Gallucci noted that the collected data was still being analysed at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) headquarters in Vienna.

He stressed that his revelations were based on his own sightings during last week's trip.

UNSCOM Chairman Rolf

Ekeus is scheduled to fly to Baghdad Friday seeking better cooperation with U.N. inspectors who are trying to eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction under Security Council Resolution 687.

Mr. Gallucci said he expected Mr. Ekeus to discuss the documents as well as the team's "detention in the parking lot."

The U.N. nuclear experts sifting through the documents also are searching for the mastermind of Iraq's \$10 billion nuclear weapons programme.

UNSCOM officials have reportedly said they believe there were one or more masterminds behind the programme — possibly foreigners.

Asked about the mastermind, U.N. official David Kay, in a brief encounter with the press at the hotel lobby, said: "I really have no idea. It's an open question we are looking into."

"It is one of the reasons we are interested in looking at the administrative structure and getting the records, names, educational background of the people to find out who was in charge."

He reiterated that he thought the Iraqis themselves were quite capable of working on the programme and that it was "not exclusively a foreign programme."

Mr. Kay was quoted earlier this week as saying he does not think the purported heads of Iraq's nuclear programme had knowledge of both weapons designs and uranium enrichment.

The current head of the Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission is only a figurehead, while his chief deputy, Jaafar Dhiab Jaffar, apparently only ran the electromagnetic uranium enrichment programme.

"I personally do not believe that the missing manager-visionary" was Mr. Jaafar, Mr. Kay wrote to his superiors in a memo before last week's standoff in the building housing documents concerning the Iraqi nuclear programme.

Iraq had three separate programmes to enrich uranium, using various different processes.

Iraq is believed to have had 12 gas centrifuges, the preferred method of uranium enrichment in countries with precision technology.

Tunisia, Algeria at odds over shelter for militants

TUNIS (R) — Relations between neighbours Tunisia and Algeria have deteriorated sharply because of Tunisian allegations that Algeria is sheltering Muslim militants who want to overthrow the Tunis government.

Tunisia's trade union confederation, the UGTT, which is close to the government, echoed recent government criticism of Algeria in an unusual statement Tuesday.

The UGTT called on the Algerian government, which has imprisoned its own fundamentalist leaders, "to do what is necessary to stop terrorists using Algerian territory to carry out their conspiracy."

Interior Minister Abdull Kallel said Saturday that militants of the Al Nahda movement were operating out of Algeria when they allegedly planned to assassinate President Zine Abidine Ben Ali and five other leaders earlier this year.

Mr. Kallel said: "The conspirators find support ... from those

who allow them to stay in their country and to use it as a base for planning acts of sabotage in Tunisia."

Official sources said two of Al Nahda movement's leading activists, sought by Tunisia through Interpol, were based in Algeria, where they enjoy the support of Algeria's own fundamentalist movement.

Fundamentalists in Algeria, despite the crackdown on the leadership in June, are much freer than their Tunisian allies, who have been driven underground over the past year.

The Tunisian government says the two activists, Mohammed Ben Salem and Mohammed Chemam, have been training guerrillas in Algeria and sending messengers across the border.

Mr. Ben Salem took over as de facto "commander" of the movement after Sadok Chourouf was arrested in May with 300 other Al Nahda leaders and members accused of plotting against the gov-

ernment. Mr. Chemam is described as the head of Al Nahda's operations branch.

Al Nahda's leader-in-exile, Rashed Ghannouchi, often spends long periods in Algeria too.

Mr. Kallel, speaking of the assassination plot last Saturday, alleged that Mr. Chemam had planned to smuggle a Stinger anti-aircraft missile across the Algerian border on Oct. 15 to shoot down Mr. Ben Ali's plane.

Al Nahda had acquired the U.S.-made missile from the Afghan Mujahideen, who have good relations with Algeria's fundamentalist movement, he added.

The Tunisian government sent Mr. Kallel to brief Algerian President Chadli Benjedid on these developments last month.

Algeria has said it cannot trace the Tunisian activists. Algerian official sources said.

Five Tunisian opposition parties denounced Muslim fun-

damentalists Tuesday saying they planned to resort to violence to seize power.

"We strongly condemn plans for assassination, terrorism, provoking disorders prepared by extremists inside the Islamic movement to seize power," the parties said in a joint statement.

The opposition parties have been demanding a national conference between the governments and opposition to study reforms in order to avert crises.

The statement said "security measures required should be taken within the law and with respect for democratic freedoms and human rights."

The statement was signed by the Socialist Democrats Movement, the Progressive Socialist Rally, the Popular Union Party, the Unionist Democratic Union and the Communist Party.

The General Union of Tunisian Workers, the Businessmen's Association and several other national groups have also condemned Al Nahda's activities.

Kuwaitis anxious over health risks from burning wells

KUWAIT (R) — Seven months after Kuwait's oil wells went ablaze, Kuwaitis are anxious about the effect on their health of the gases from the fires.

Some ask why their children faint at school and are frequently sick with high fever. Others complain of feeling exhausted, of coughing all the time and of headaches.

The government tells the people there is no danger. Some scientists disagree.

Ordinary Kuwaitis are left wondering what to believe and whether there is a cover-up.

"People say that the government is hiding the facts, but we are not. We are monitoring all kinds of gases and keeping an eye on the acute as well as long-term effects," said Ibrahim al Hadi of the official Environment Protection Council (EPC).

Some local scientists say the EPC only monitors classical pollutants like nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide.

"They are not looking for non-classical gases and particulates that include hydrocarbons and heavy metals," said one scientist, who refused to be identified.

Mr. Hadi said the government was analysing the particulates.

The results have not reached the danger levels."

But Kuwaitis are becoming critical of the lack of government guidance which they say is keeping them in the dark.

"You get one person telling you there is no danger. Then the second day somebody else tells you it is bad for the health. All we want is to know the truth," said one Kuwaiti businessman.

There has not been an independent study of the health risks from the gases spewing from the wells which were ignited by during the Gulf war in January and February.

Kuwait has enjoyed reasonable clear weather with the wind blowing the smoke out over the Gulf or south to Saudi Arabia.

But in the last week a thick black cloud has shrouded the city coupled with high humidity levels, often making breathing difficult. The air is greasy and often smells of petrol.

Scientists say it will get worse with the approach of winter and expect the smoke to reach ground level in December.

Mr. Hadi said the government was doing the best that could be done. He said his agency was monitoring the pollution in coor-

dination with German and Norwegian teams.

The government was trying "to deal with the source of the problem by capping burning wells as fast as possible."

Kuwait says it has so far capped more than 75 per cent of the 732 burning or damaged wells and firefighters expect to cap all the wells by the end of the year.

But the controversy rumbles on.

A report in September by the international environment group Greenpeace said Kuwait faced an environmental catastrophe and accused the government of hiding the truth.

Almost daily newspaper editorials ask the government to come clean on the effects of the pollution.

Two doctors at a Kuwait hospital got into an argument Monday when asked whether there was an increasing number of people suffering from asthma or breathing difficulty.

"Why do you want to hide the truth?" asked one angry doctor when his colleague denied there was any problem from the fires.

The smoke is affecting the eyes, skin and lungs. The officials are hiding the truth. We don't

even have medical records on the new cases," the doctor added.

Effect on Iran

Black oily rain from the burning Kuwait oilwells has fallen on up to two thirds of Iran and could poison crops if it continues, Greenpeace said Tuesday.

"They've had serious problems from black rain — we've seen evidence of it," Paul Horsman, coordinator of the group's two-month Gulf study, told Reuters in a satellite telephone call from the ship Greenpeace.

"We are told between half and two thirds of Iran has been hit mainly in the western Bushkev province. We've seen dried puddles of oil peeling off the ground like skin," he said.

A senior Iranian official said on Sunday Tehran was claiming damages through the United Nations for environmental losses inflicted by the six-week Gulf war.

The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Ramazan-Ali Al-dini, deputy head of its Environmental Protection Agency, as saying marine life and crops had been destroyed but it was difficult to assess the damage. It gave no figure for compensation claims.

Destabilisation will precede democracy in Middle East, experts say

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Democracy does have a future in the Middle East, but in order to achieve this there will be a period of destabilisation in the region, a panel of Middle East experts has concluded.

The experts discussed the current status and prospects for economic and political liberalisation in the Middle East in a Voice of America-sponsored symposium. The symposium was part of VOA's 50th anniversary observance.

Taking part in the symposium were: Graham Fuller, scholar with the RAND Corporation; Marius Deeb, professor at George Washington University; William Quandt, fellow at the Brookings Institute; Clovis Maksood, professor at American University; and Eric Hooglund, editor of the Middle East Report.

The experts reviewed existing forces working for democracy in the region and the challenges to democratisation.

"There is a widespread feeling among Arabs... that the old order had not given economic betterment, social

justice, respect for human rights or respect for freedom," Mr. William Quandt said.

Noting the improvements in literacy and the flow of information in the region, Mr. Quandt said, "It is going to be increasingly difficult for governments to keep tight control over a restive, better educated population."

This, however, "does not necessarily mean that democratic norms emerge," he cautioned.

"Democratic norms emerge from concrete experiences — when the populace realises that there are no better alternatives, when it recognises that compromise is the only way to deal with civil strife," he said.

The idea of compromise is gaining acceptance in the Arab World, Mr. Quandt said, noting the recent Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers where despite a strong confrontation of political views, a compromise in favour of attending a Middle East peace conference emerged.

The idea of compromise is central to the end of a "siege

mentality" and elimination of economic stagnation in the Middle East — two essential ingredients for the promotion of democracy in the region, Mr. Quandt said.

Democratic norms cannot survive in the Middle East as long as a "siege mentality" — where regimes mobilise themselves against external threats — persists, he said.

Democratic practices can not develop under siege mentality because "minorities will always be suspect of being traitors," Mr. Quandt said. "This needs to end for dissent to be accepted as normal rather than as a threat to the state," he stressed.

In addition, economic growth is essential in order to ease the acceptance of compromise among differing social and political groups, he noted.

While the elements of democracy exist in many countries of the region — such as allowing political parties and human rights groups to organise — "real democracy must entail free elections and a transfer of power," Mr. Deeb said.

Mr. Deeb said that while

there are elections throughout the region, the process very rarely leads to a transfer of power — thereby suggesting that democracy is merely being used to legitimise the ruling leadership.

The issue of pan-Arabism must also be addressed in the question of democratisation in the Middle East, Mr. Fuller stated.

While "Arabs do have the absolute right for recognition of a common heritage," Mr. Fuller said, a problem emerges "when these desires translate into politics."

"Pan-Arabism very often states to interfere into the affairs of another state," he said, adding that President Saddam Hussein used the banner of pan-Arabism during Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

"I do not know how easy democratisation can be established as long as" a policy of intervention by one state against another can be justified under pan-Arabism, Mr. Fuller said.

Mr. Maksood added to this, saying, the "legitimacy of a sovereign state system and the legitimacy of inter-

Arab accountability" must be reconciled.

Taking into account the challenges to democracy in the region, Mr. Fuller said the process of democratisation in the Middle East will be "difficult and very destabilising."

"I cannot think of a place where more destabilisation will take place" in order to achieve democracy, than in Iraq, Mr. Fuller added.

The ruling Baath Party has destroyed two basic elements to achieving democracy — a thriving civil society and the population's ability to voice dissent, Mr. Fuller said.

Achieving democracy in Iraq "is not just a question of getting rid of Saddam Hussein. It is a question of the Baath Party," he said.

Comparing the pervasiveness of the Baath party in Iraq's political, economic and civil societies to the Communist Party in the Soviet Union, Mr. Fuller said "The dismantling of the Baath is an essential prerequisite for democracy in Iraq."

There is also the question of whether the Sunni minority is willing to pay the price

of overthrowing President Saddam Hussein and moving toward democracy, Mr. Fuller said. A shift to democracy may entail giving greater voice to the Shiite majority and to the Kurdish population, he noted.

In regards to the Kurds, there is the possibility that "if they attain a voice commensurate with their numbers, it may lead to separatism," he added.

Mr. Deeb went as far as to say that "real democracy" is to take place in Iraq the country will have to be split "into three parts," specifically into the Shiites, Sunnis, and Kurds.

Using the problem of ethnic and religious minorities in Iraq as an example, Mr. Deeb said "Real democracy in the Middle East may lead to the disintegration of many states and the changing of borders."

Mr. Fuller and Mr. Hooglund voiced their optimism for the prospects of democratisation in Iran.

Mr. Fuller said the "chances for democracy in Iran are quite good." Despite the "ruthlessness" of some

aspects of the Iranian government, "it is fundamentally not a totalitarian regime in the way of Iraq," he noted.

There is a "genuine sense" of civil society in Iran, which includes an open press, parliamentary process, and elections, he explained.

Mr. Hooglund noted that while Iran's "form of government cannot be described as democratic," it is nevertheless a populist government.

Although popular participation is limited, parliamentary politics and local and presidential elections constitute elements of democratisation, he said.

The prospects of democratisation among the Palestinians are also very good, Mr. Fuller noted.

The Palestinians "have a better chance for significant democratic life in the future than any other Arab population," he said, due to influences of Israeli society and the creation of a civil society through the intifada.

The experts concluded that while democratisation is an inevitability in the process of democratisation, the United States should not fear this

prospect. "Maybe the United States can afford to relax about destabilisation, now that the Soviet Union is out of business," Mr. Fuller said.

Agreeing with this assessment, Mr. Quandt said "If there is a degree of political instability as change occurs — that is inevitable. The United States should be much more relaxed about the forces of political change."

Now that the cold war is over, the United States should not support "regimes (in the Middle East) simply because they supported our global strategic policy," Mr. Quandt said. The United States should associate itself "with (democratic) trends that look promising" in the region, he added.

Mr. Deeb added to this, saying the United States should continue its support for human rights groups and multi-party systems and broaden its contacts with opposition parties in the Middle East.

Supporting elements of the region's civil society and not individual regimes will bolster the prospects of democracy in the region, he stressed.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Les Cles de Fort Boyard
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 News in Arabic
20:30 The Simpsons
21:10 Beyond West world
22:00 News in English
22:20 Movie of the week: "The Butler"

PRAYER TIMES

05:09 Fajr
06:26 Sunrise/Duha
12:25 Dhuhr
15:47 Asr
18:23 Maghreb
19:49 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth St. 8107.0
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632765
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzian Church Tel. 622266

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assyrian International Church Tel. 827981, 683326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824 and 654932
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 676691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The country will be under the effect of unstable weather conditions. Therefore, there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. In Aqaba, it will be dusty with southerly fresh winds and rough seas.
Min./Max. temp.
Amman 19 / 32
Aqaba 25 / 38
Deserts 18 / 33
Jordan Valley 27 / 38

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 38. Humidity readings: Amman 31 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Youssef Amour 615648
Dr. Khalid Mar'ad 743530
Dr. Joseph Inish 770560
Dr. Mohammad Manna 741444
Firas pharmacy 661912
Fardous pharmacy 778336
Al Azzam pharmacy 637055
Nasrallah pharmacy 626762
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

IBRID:
Dr. Mahmoud Khalil (—)
Al Shara'a pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Samir Al Jweid (—)
Khalil pharmacy 965417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 886990
Public Security Department 638321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Reprints 623101
Abdali Telephone Reprints 661101
Jordan Television 773111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hamdan Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Akshid Maternity, J. Amn 640412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malles, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 664714
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Munir Hospital 6672719
The Islamic, Abdali 66127157
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Amman 77511126
Army, Marj 89161115
Queen Abla Hospital 6224090
Amal Hospital 674125
ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa Maternity Hospital (09)902500
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)985732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)999990
IBRID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275535
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)222273
Ibn Al Nafis Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

U.N. agency monitoring ceasefire lines moves to new offices in Amman

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) moved its Amman liaison office to new premises Wednesday and its officials emphasised that the move was prompted by administrative reasons and had nothing to do with the ongoing efforts for peace between Israel and the Arabs.

In fact, said Lieutenant-Colonel Cornelis Haverhoek in an inaugural speech on the occasion, the organisation hoped that it would be able to have the area in "the next one or two years" an indirect reference to optimism that the Middle East peace process will bear fruit and thus eliminate the need for supervising any Arab-Israeli truce.

Also addressing the opening ceremony, Major General H. Christensen of Finland, chief of staff of the occupied Jerusalem-based UNTSO, paid tribute to Jordan's cooperation with the organisation.

UNTSO, established in 1948 following the Arab-Israeli war, supervises the truce between Israel and the Arab states neighbouring it through field offices.

In Amman, the UNTSO office liaises between the Jordanian government — represented by the armed forces — and the Israeli occupation authorities.

"The primary role of the Amman office is to maintain liaison between Jordan and Israel, to act as an interface between neighbouring countries, to provide an atmosphere of trust and to facilitate communications since the armistice," said Col. Haverhoek, a Dutch national.

"It also acts as a formal conduit for United Nations military activities, arranging clearances for people and aircraft and conducting investigations as authorised patrols along both the ground and maritime armistice demarcation line," he said.

The UNTSO office in Amman includes three other military personnel — a Soviet, a French and a Swiss — and three civilian U.N. officials supported by local staff.

The move to the new office from the old office in Jabal Amman, which UNTSO had for the past 23 years, "was warranted by the amount of increasing work," Col. Haverhoek said.

"We hope that we will be leaving in the next one or two years," he said.

UNTSO also handles cases of infiltration across the demarcation line and acts as a channel of communications between the Israeli and Jordanian authorities. Col. Haverhoek said.

According to the officer, UNTSO took delivery of the bodies and possessions of five people who were shot dead by the Israeli army after they infiltrated across the ceasefire line in the last year. The bodies and their possessions were handed over to the Jordanian armed



ON THE MOVE — Staff at the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) in Amman with Chief of Staff Major General H.

Christensen (centre), who is based in occupied Jerusalem, on the occasion of the opening of a new office for UNTSO in Amman.

forces, he said.

The Israelis declared the 1948 armistice null and void after the 1967 war and the armistice commission has not met since then, but that has not stopped UNTSO in continuing

to maintain its presence and activities as a channel of communications, he said.

UNTSO also extends various services to other United Nations organisations in Amman as well as other U.N. ceasefire monitoring bodies in the Middle East, including the interim force in Lebanon, the Iran-Iraq military observation group, and the Iran-Kuwait observation mission.

Jordan to seek alternative sources of energy

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Natural Resources Authority (NRA), which is in charge of oil, gas and other natural resources exploitation in the Kingdom, says Jordan has at least 55 million tonnes of copper and unspecified amounts of manganese in the Wadi Araba region, south of the Dead Sea and that efforts are under way to utilise the minerals.

NRA Director General Kamal Jreissat was quoted as saying in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) that his department was in contact with the European Community (EC) to help Jordan exploit the new minerals.

"Earlier bids to exploit the minerals in Wadi Araba proved futile because of the low international price rates, but thanks to modern technology, such minerals could be exploited at a cheaper rate in cooperation with the EC," Mr. Jreissat said.

The NRA chief also stressed that Jordan was continuing full cooperation with foreign companies to help the Kingdom prospect for and find oil. The NRA earlier concluded contracts with Petro-Canada, the Japanese National Oil Company as well as the Austrian Oil Company and the national oil companies of Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Syria, according to Mr. Jreissat.

Between 1975 and 1990, Jordan's oil import bill amounted to JD 2,214 million. For this reason, the NRA is trying to find oil and also to find alternative energy sources.

Early exploration successes of the international oil industry in surrounding Arab countries attracted a number of companies to acquire exploration rights in Jordan as early as 1947, Mr. Jreissat said.

However, the giant size of the oil discoveries in the Arab Gulf area and early indications that the prospects of finding similar oil fields in Jordan were weak made the international companies abandon all exploration efforts in 1976, Mr. Jreissat said.

This lack of enthusiasm from the international oil companies has resulted in a decision by the government to carry out a national oil exploration programme and the NRA was entrusted with this task, Mr. Jreissat said.

NRA teams, assisted by foreign companies, started drilling in 1981 and have drilled a total of 66

wells in a number of regions in search for oil. The extensive search led to the discovery in 1984 of a modest oil source at Azraq and in 1987 an oil field in the northeast, near the Iraqi border, Mr. Jreissat said.

He added that in its effort to help Jordan find oil, Petro-Canada allocated and used some \$47 million between 1987 and 1990. Petro-Canada's assistance to Jordan is used in all phases of petroleum exploration and production, providing Canadian expertise and equipment for the NRA, he added.

He said that an agreement with the Japan National Oil Company provided that it conduct complete geological and seismic surveys and studies for the north Sirhan area at a cost of about \$5 million. The company completed the work in 1990 and the data was made available to the NRA to use in its exploration efforts.

A similar agreement was reached with the Austrian company covering the south Sirhan area, Mr. Jreissat said. The Austrian company completed its studies last year and provided a comprehensive report. The Austrians have spent \$2 million for the research.

He said that the NRA would continue its exploration efforts through a national programme and would keep the door open for international oil companies to help.

According to a recent lecture by Mr. Jreissat, Jordan's energy requirements are increasing annually and it is estimated that by the year 2000 they will reach about six million tonnes of oil.

For this reason, Mr. Jreissat said, attention has now turned to the exploitation of natural gas at Al Rishah fields near the Iraqi border. A total of 12 billion cubic feet has been exploited and utilised to produce electricity, covering 15 per cent of the country's annual needs, he said.

Gas turbines now produce 60 megawatts every day but the NRA, in cooperation with the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), aims to raise this to 120 megawatts daily and cover 30 per cent of the country's electric energy requirements. The exploitation of gas saves the country some 6,000 barrels of oil daily, he said.

Housing Corporation outlines troubles; calls on private sector to contribute to solution

AMMAN (Agencies) — Jordan's housing sector is finding difficulty coping with the great demand for people for housing units in the wake of the return to Jordan by an estimated 36,000 families from Kuwait and other Gulf countries, the Housing Corporation Director Youssef Hiyasat said Wednesday.

Normally, Jordan requires 4,000 housing units annually at a cost of about JD 485 million. But a view of the influx of the returnees, the housing sector cannot cope with demand, Mr. Hiyasat said at a press conference.

Of the 36,000 families, at least 10,000 have no homes. Housing units for them would cost JD 379 million, rising to JD 540 million when the price of the infrastructure and basic services is added, Mr. Hiyasat said.

The Housing Corporation has now approached the U.N. Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) to help Jordan cope with the situation by providing soft loans and technical aid, Mr. Hiyasat said.

To cope with the immediate housing needs, the government has allocated JD 4 million to help the housing sector. With the allocation of funds, the Housing Corporation has now embarked on the construction of 275 housing units at Marka and is planning to carry out other housing estates in different areas such as Karak, Irbid, Salt, Ajlun and Ma'an, Mr. Hiyasat said.

The corporation has recently announced the beginning of construction of housing project at Irbid Farkhah in the Irbid Governorate. It has also appropriated 100 plots of land in Beit Ras in the Irbid region to set up 900 housing units, Mr. Hiyasat said. He added that work was underway to build other units at Ajlun.



Housing Corporation Director Youssef Hiyasat (centre) addresses press conference Wednesday on problems facing corporation (Petra photo)

At present, the Housing Corporation is holding contacts with the Jordanian Armed Forces to acquire a piece of land in the Zarqa region to set up a pilot housing project for employees of the Armed Forces, Mr. Hiyasat said.

The Housing Corporation is enlisting the assistance of the private sector and, according to housing law, the private sector should be represented on the Housing Corporation board, Mr. Hiyasat said. He added that the corporation has already contacted one of the private sector's construction companies to benefit from its expertise in developing and implementing urban development projects.

Mr. Hiyasat invited investors and businessmen to invest in the housing sector and to cooperate with the corporation to build homes.

Mr. Hiyasat told the conference that the corporation was now embarking on plans to implement plans for the second stage of the Abu Nusair Housing Estate, where 4,500 families currently live.

He said the second stage entails building homes on 1,200 dunums of land which will be divided into plots and on which the Housing Corporation will build roads and lay electricity, water and sewage networks before the homes can be erected. But, Mr. Hiyasat

said, the second stage will mainly benefit low-income families and cooperative societies in Jordan.

Mr. Hiyasat also said that the Housing Corporation was facing a difficult financial time and does not have sufficient funds to finance its projects.

"We are seeking assistance from the Finance Ministry and foreign organisations to provide soft loans for the projects to be set up at the lowest possible cost," he said.

Mr. Hiyasat appealed to local banks and financial institutions to contribute to housing projects currently being carried out by the corporation and the Urban Development Department.

PSD to broadcast traffic reports on radio

AMMAN (J.T.) — In a bid to facilitate the flow of traffic in the greater Amman region, the Public Security Department (PSD) has announced plans to utilise a new Radio Jordan F.M. programme which is due to go on the air this Friday.

An announcement said that PSD messages will go on the air through the new F.M. wavelength in Arabic to broadcast in two periods daily. The PSD message will be broadcast within the 7:30 am to 9 a.m. programme and between 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., covering the greater Amman region.

According to the announcement, the PSD messages will contain news about the traffic situation in and around the capital during rush hours. The PSD messages will contain guidance

and advice to motorists about congested roads and directions to alternate roads to avoid problems, the announcement said.

Throughout the programme, the PSD will broadcast messages about the situation on the roads in other parts of the country providing listeners with daily statistics about road accidents.

Writers and columnists in the local press had been tackling the question of congestions on the roads, particularly in Amman during the rush hours. Other writers had been tackling the plight of passengers waiting for service taxis or buses along almost all routes.

The congestion is attributed to the presence of a large number of expatriates' vehicles and the return to Jordan of hundreds of thousands of refugees following the Gulf crisis.

Engineers to discuss unified allowances system

AMMAN (J.T.) — A general meeting for engineers will be held at the Professional Association Complex Friday to discuss the condition of nearly 4,000 engineers employed by the public sector and whose interests were harmed with the application of a unified allowances system of 1988.

The announcement was made by the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) Vice President Fathi Hiyasat. The association had sent several memoranda to the minister of public works and the prime ministry complaining that the unified system was harmful to the engineer, to no avail.

Before the unified system was announced in March 1988, engineers working for the government used to receive a special

technical allowance for their specialisations. But once the unified system of allowances was put into force, engineers lost their privileges and their income was reduced, said Mr. Hiyasat in a statement to the press.

Furthermore, he said, engineers appointed to work for the government after 1988 are being offered the sixth grade in the general Civil Service Commission's classification system whereas those appointed before that date used to have the fifth grade.

Status of health services in Arab World to be reviewed

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is attending the 16th meeting by the Arab Health Ministers Council and the 38th meeting of the Regional Committee for the Mediterranean Region affiliated to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The two meetings are opening in Tunis Saturday with the participation of delegates from Arab

countries.

The five-day meetings will tackle health situations in the Arab states, the current embargo on medicine and food imposed on Iraq, the health services in Jordan in light of the influx of hundreds of thousands of expatriates and refugees as well as the role of WHO in promoting health services in the Arab region.

Jordanian delegation to leave for IPU conference today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is taking part in a meeting by the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) which opens in the Chilean capital of Santiago on Monday and a delegation representing the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament is due to leave Amman for the meeting day.

The delegation is to be led by Speaker House member and former minister Mohammad Adnan Al Zaben, who will deliver an address to the meeting and will discuss a host of political and economic issues. The Jordanian delegation's address is expected to focus attention on the developments on the world scene, current efforts to bring about peace to the Middle East and the situation in the occupied Arab territories, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The five-day meeting is also expected to discuss the role of world parliaments in enhancing links among nations, means of backing public liberties and ways to promote socio-economic development through investments, according to Petra.

It added that the participants will discuss the subject of finding means to avert mass genocide through cooperation among countries within the IPU and other world organisations.

The IPU, founded in 1888, aims to promote personal contacts among members of all parliaments with a view to establishing and developing firm democratic institutions and to advancing international peace and cooperation.

Dr. Zaben is accompanied to the IPU meeting by Ibrahim Izzeddin, Ali Hawandeh, Saleh Zoubi and Zeid Zureikat.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- Exhibition of water colour paintings by Charles Foster-Hall at the British Council.
- Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Marwan Al 'Allam at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition by Iraqi artists Mohammad Hassan Jodi (copper engravings) and Sahib Al Yassiri (ceramics) at Alfa Art Gallery.
- Plastic exhibition by Jamilah Abed Al-Fakh at Yarmouk University.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Germany

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable to German President Richard von Weizsacker to congratulate him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian government and people on Germany's national day. King Hussein wished Mr. Weizsacker good health and happiness and the German people further progress and prosperity.

Delegation returns from seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Educational Training Centre Khalid Al Sheikh and Director of the Ministry of Education's Academic Education Department Hassan Al Usta Wednesday returned home from Hamburg, Germany, where they attended an international seminar on continued education and illiteracy eradication. Mr. Usta said the Jordanian delegation to the seminar presented a working paper dealing with education in Jordan and its development at the various levels.

Noted businessman laid to rest

AMMAN (J.T.) — Hisham Darwazah, a noted Jordanian businessman, was laid to rest Wednesday. Mr. Darwazah was hit by a speeding car while walking along Mecca Street in western Amman Monday night.

Mr. Darwazah was strolling along with his wife when he was hit by the car driven by a young man. He died immediately.

Mr. Darwazah is survived by his wife and four children.

Mrs. Darwazah, who was also hit, is reported to be in serious condition and is under intensive care treatment.

driver fled after hitting the couple but was later stopped by police who were tipped off by the bystanders.

The accident underscores concern among public officials about Jordan's growing traffic problems.

The Public Security Department (PSD) last year reported the occurrence of 17,836 road accidents in Jordan, responsible for the death of 375 people and the injury of nearly 10,500 others.

PSD's weekly statistical reports show that most accidents occur within the Greater Amman area.

Jordan to attend IOC committee meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will be one of 44 Islamic countries taking part in the seventh meeting of a permanent committee formed by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to discuss economic and trade issues in the Islamic World to be held in Turkey on Sunday.

Minister of Public Works and Housing Saad Hayel Al Surour will lead the Jordanian delegation to the meeting, which will leave Amman Friday.

Apart from discussing economic and trade issues of concern to the Muslim World, the participants will review a report by the OIC secretariat and other reports by sub-committees as well as the Islamic Development Bank, said Mr. Surour Wednesday.

The committee is also scheduled to discuss the creation of a data bank to provide information about trade and a unified system for guarantees on exports and investments, the minister said.

Other question on the agenda include economic measures to be taken by the organisation to support Palestine and Lebanon and OIC's future programmes, the minister said.

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Negotiating frontiers

THE PEOPLE of Western Europe have been watching with a mixture of shock and bewilderment as a close neighbour country, Yugoslavia, tears itself to pieces. Why do its inhabitants, they ask themselves, particularly the Serbs and Croats, hate each other so passionately? Isn't the main language of the country called Serbo-Croat, which implies at least the sort of racial kinship which finds expression in a common speech? And surely the country's name implies some echo of the pan-Slavism which was so potent a force in the 19th century?

The trouble is that proximity among nations is more likely to breed enmity than love, and nowhere are historical memories more cherished than in the Balkans. It was the author of that best of all travel books, E. H. Carr, who begins the journey which was to take him in the 1940s to Constantinople, Beirut, Jerusalem and Cairo with a chapter called "Over the Border." Contemplating the Turkish held fortress of Belgrade, now the capital of Yugoslavia, he said goodbye to familiar Europe and prepared to enter what he called "the Splendid and Fanciful of the East." He was moving from a Catholic land to an Orthodox and Muslim one, and the two worlds, as he said, were "as much as under as though there were fifty broad provinces in the path between them." Political union has not brought harmony to those two worlds.

The Ottoman Empire which Kinglake was then approaching had many weaknesses and injustices but it had one great advantage, at any rate for the privileged, and that was mobility. An Ottoman official might be born anywhere and serve anywhere in Asia, Europe, or even Africa. For example, Sati Al-Husri, later to become director-general of education in Iraq during the Mandate period and a zealous Arab nationalist, was born in Sana'a in Yemen, went to school in Constantinople, studied in France, and became a district governor in Macedonia. How many frontiers would that mean crossing today - as a tourist, let alone looking for a job?

The ending of empires creates arbitrary frontiers which too often can only be altered by force. So it was with the Austrian and Turkish empires, so later with the British and French, and so now with the Russian. Like the Ottoman, the Soviet empire had enormous shortcomings, but it also had the merit of mobility at the top. Will in future only Russians be able to hold positions of importance in Russia, only Ukrainians in the Ukraine, Kazakhs in Kazakhstan, and so on? And if so, to whose advantage will it be, except for the second-rate who would probably never have made it to the top in a larger unit?

We are witnessing almost everywhere the clash of two opposing tendencies, the centrifugal and the centripetal, the splitting and the uniting. At the moment the centrifugal seems to be winning. Thus, the European Community, only a year away from the next stage which is to loosen further barriers between historic nation states, has proved unable with its collective wisdom and influence to halt the break-up of Yugoslavia or to do more than watch with anxiety and sympathy what is going on in what used to be the USSR.

The same opposing forces have been at work in the Middle East and North Africa with varying intensity since the end of World War Two, the centrifugal almost always winning. Most centripetal endeavours, like the union of Egypt with Syria (United Arab Republic) in 1958, and the various pan-African unions of North African states, have been either ineffective or short-lived. National frontiers may often be irrational but they are defended as stubbornly as if they represented racial and geographic purity.

If there is anything worse than an irrational frontier that has become fossilised it is a non-existent frontier. The non-existence of a frontier between Israel and its Arab neighbours has been the cause of numerous wars and threatens to be the cause of still more. Even quite moderate Israelis have been reluctant to say where they think the frontier should be drawn, while the Likud and its prime ministers, Mr. Begin and Mr. Shamir, are heirs to the Revisionist Jabotinsky and those who dreamed of Zionist settlement on the eastern as well as western bank of the Jordan, or even further.

Because of the inherent dangers of this uncertainty, the calling of a Middle East conference has to be seen as a serious attempt to create a frontier by negotiation. Such a frontier would have a better chance of enduring than any of those drawn haphazardly on maps when empires collapse. Should this come about, centripetal forces might then stand a chance and the whole area ultimately recover the mobility which it enjoyed under the Ottomans - Middle East International, London.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Wednesday criticised certain elements within the legislative authority for encroaching on the powers and rights of the executive authority with regard to the ongoing efforts to find a permanent settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. It seems that some deputies are trying to take over the role of the government regarding the Arab-Israeli question, in total violation of the provisions of the Jordanian Constitution, said the paper. Each of the executive, legislative and judicial authorities has its own jurisdictions and powers, and any confusion of the three or overlapping would mean a violation of the constitutional boundaries and a flagrant violation of democracy which provides protection to each of the three authorities, the paper said. The executive authority cannot enact laws and the legislative authority cannot implement these laws, under the terms of the national constitution, the paper pointed out. It said that it is the right of the executive authority to exercise its powers under the constitution and the legislative authority should be there only to monitor and approve or disapprove government's actions, the paper added. Any encroachment by one authority over the rights of another can only lead to the collapse of the democratic system in the country, the paper added. It said that if that happened the Jordanian people's future would be in jeopardy.

ISRAEL seems to be determined to abort the U.S. peace plans and has therefore decided to pursue the construction of settlements on the occupied Arab territories, said Sawt Al Shamm daily Wednesday. Furthermore, the Shamir government seems to be contemplating early parliamentary elections in a bid to delay the convening of a peace conference, the paper noted. The Bush administration is being pressured by the Zionist lobby in Congress to offer the Jewish state the housing loan guarantees so that the Israeli government can go ahead with the construction of settlements, the paper said. It said that these Israeli actions were clearly designed to allow the historic opportunity of making peace in the Middle East slip away like all others before it.

Reflections

Another round of musical chairs?

DURING the parliamentary debate that preceded the vote of confidence for the Masri Cabinet, one honourable deputy from the north unwittingly revealed what many people had suspected for sometime now: that there exists a tacit understanding for a fair distribution of ministerial booty amongst all aspiring legislators over the life of the present Parliament. Why are you in such a huff? he admonished his demurring colleagues. This time it is their turn, pointing towards the latest batch of parliamentarians to make the grade. Soon enough, it will be yours.

This spirited appeal to the legislators' higher instincts had clearly touched a soft spot somewhere in their duodenum. For moments before the actual voting took place, a sizeable group of would-be dissenters had a sudden change of heart. They scooped up their dashed hopes and went on to cast the decisive vote in favour of the new government. Today, their admirable act of altruism stands vindicated. Several members of the group may soon don the ministerial robes.

This silent understanding, I am happy to report, is being implemented right on schedule. Of the fifty or so independent legislators who are eligible for Cabinet honours, almost half have already been sworn in during the first two years of this Parliament. At this rate of turnover, all fifty should hold the coveted title of "your excellency" by the time the next elections are held. The remaining eight independent deputies have either made clear their unavailability for Cabinet posts or disqualified themselves on grounds of poor behaviour.

For those of us who are keen connoisseurs of the art of politics, the news of this gentleman's agreement was more than we could digest and made our stomachs stir violently. As we stood in awe, admiring the ingenious audacity of it all, the full meaning of what had just transpired descended slowly upon us like a revelation. This was an ordinary run of the mill scheme of mutual back scratching. What we had just witnessed was nothing less than an

evolutionary breakthrough in the politics of expediency. A merger between the executive and legislative branches of government into a harmonious and self-serving fraternity. Taken to its logical ultimatum, the merger will lead to a fusion of interests between the Parliament, now the Cabinet's breeding grounds, and the bureaucracy, the powerful foreman of the land. Thus the coming together of one big and happy family dedicated to government of the officialdom, by the officialdom and for the officialdom.

A very touching picture indeed. With tears glistening in our eyes and chests brimming with pride, we called our friends around the democratic world to brag about these thrilling innovations. The British Society of Political Enthusiasts could not help but concede the shortcomings of the British parliamentary system, made glaringly and painfully inadequate when compared to ours. The Britons complained about the fact that the great majority of British MPs, have to spend their entire careers on the back benches, busy themselves with such mundane tasks like enacting legislation and keeping a watchful and critical eye on government's actions and policies. And even when the select few make it into the cabinet, they are constrained by rigid government policies and are unable to access public funds for populist initiatives designed to enhance their individual standings amongst their constituents. What is the point of entering politics, bemoaned our British friends, totally dejected by now.

After the excitement had subsided, we gathered around for a sober review of all the possible ramifications of such an avant-garde pact. Hours of rigorous analysis only served to lighten our keen appreciation of its many wonderful virtues. Here are some of the political benefits which we listed:

1. A legislator who earns himself a Cabinet prize is assured of a comfortable retirement in case, God forbids, the electo-

rate fails him next time.

2. After a legislator enters the Cabinet, he can either resign shortly afterwards on a convenient point of principle or pursue populist initiatives financed by the public purse. Either way, he increases his popularity with the uniformed masses and improves his chances of getting re-elected.
3. The effective neutralisation of Parliament allows Cabinet ministers to exercise their prerogative to make silly and whimsical decisions freely and paves the way for the auspicious return of power politics.
4. Mutual back scratching between Parliament and the bureaucracy guarantees the cooperation of bureaucrats in matters of hiring, spending, attending to whims, and covering up for mistakes. Reciprocity calls for legislators to turn a blind eye as bureaucrats pursue their favourite hobbies of snoozing on the job and toying with the public.

Of course, there will always be a few unsporting deputies who will want to remain in the Cabinet forever, selfishly sipping the chances of their colleagues. They tend to discover their principles soon after they are booted out and will deliver a furious harangue in opposition to any government that excludes them. We are confident, however, that peer pressure will smooth out these ruffled feathers eventually.

Finally, we have detected one minor and inconsequential drawback to the new arrangement. The absence of government policies, financial discipline, and administrative reforms may in the long-run bring ruin to the country. But, as the wise man says, in the long-run we are all dead. So who cares anyway?

Building the lie

By John Ross & Norman Solomon

The following is the second in a 4-part series of a working paper presented at the International Seminar on News Coverage During the Time of War: Objectivity and the Role of Journalists, held in Amman, Sept. 28-30, 1991. John Ross, Pacific News Service and San Francisco Examiner correspondent in Latin America, has covered guerrilla wars in the Andes and social conflicts in Central America and Mexico. He recently returned from a human rights fact-finding tour of Kuwait. Norman Solomon coordinates the peace desk for the media watch group FAIR, based in New York City.

AS American troops and reporters rushed headlong into the Middle East together, the separation between press and state narrowed to the vanishing point. Although occasional dispatches dissented from the build-up being ballyhooed by the White House and the Pentagon, the essence of propaganda was the repeated drumbeat of codewords, catch phrases, and skewed renditions of events preparing the ground for war. In the late summer of 1990, U.S. audiences were being forced key media themes:

Cheering the military escalation: Radio and TV across the country, like print media, publicised thousands of tearful departures of service men and women for the front. Enthusiastic odes and photo essays lauding the mobilisation proliferated.

Self-censorship of mainstream media: From the outset of the Gulf crisis, most news accounts were drawn directly from what U.S. government officials told journalists. The build-up was accomplished with a mass-mediated spectrum of views that virtually excluded fundamental critiques. Public affairs programmes gave U.S. officials and their backers routine dominance of the airwaves. For example, during August, ABC-TV's influential "nightline" starred former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman William Crowe on three separate programmes. His appearance alternated with an endless stream of past and current officials of the CIA, Defence and State Departments, and the National Security Council.

Double-standard on human rights: Both the Saudi and Turkish governments routinely torture and jail citizens for political reasons, but those regimes remained almost immune from American news media criticism of wholesale human rights violations. The Baghdad government, which Amnesty International has

repeatedly pointed to as a gross human rights violator, only came under fire in the U.S. press when Saddam Hussein's activities ran afoul of Washington's preferences.

Saddam Hussein as demon: In August 1990, the U.S. media began its portrayal of Saddam Hussein as a monster baby-killer, the apocryphal tale of 300 infants being tossed from their incubators during the invasion of Kuwait received wide dissemination. (See Alexander Cockburn, the National, February 4, 1991, for debunking; it wasn't until the end of the war that mainstream American media acknowledged the incubator story was a falsehood - after long reporting it as fact). U.S. press officials, speaking off the record during this period, stated that the demonisation of Saddam Hussein would be essential for making war on Iraq, and media messengers were eager to oblige.

Keeping up the corporate image: Saddam Hussein was blamed for pushing gas prices up even by such liberal columnists as the New York Times' Tom Wicker. American media rarely mentioned the vested interests that many corporations had in a shooting war with Iraq. When the subject slipped through at all, euphemism prevailed. Thus the New York Times (August 29, 1990) presented this summary: "While no one is hoping for a war, many companies have a chance to reap unexpected profits from the military build-up..."

The media war effort escalated throughout the fall, covering the U.S. build-up with a publicity blitz while stockpiling plenty of propaganda supplies for the long winter ahead.

The burden of sacrifice that the U.S. would bear in the conflict had become a theme. "American officials and troops express bitterness that of all the nations arrayed against Iraq, it is the United States that will likely bear

the greatest burden - in blood, in dollars and perhaps in ideals," wrote New York Times correspondent James LeMayne (October 21, 1990). On the other hand, efforts by world leaders to slow the U.S. escalation pained such perennial war enthusiasts as William Randolph Hearst Jr., who maintained a family tradition by lamenting in his Sunday San Francisco Examiner column on October 28 that "this appeasement movement is threatening to ruin President Bush's hope of establishing a new world order against aggression..."

Double standards were necessary to encourage self-righteousness in an American public: being primed for war. Two types of Arab states were frequently labeled "moderate": they were aligned with the United States. By late October, The New York Times rarely failed to attach the modifier when it referred to "the moderate Arab coalition Washington has built-up."

Although Saddam Hussein had been indicating since early autumn that Iraq would be willing to withdraw from most of Kuwait, remaining only in the

Rumaila oil fields and the islands of Bubiyan and Warba, the U.S. media basically accepted the White House depiction of Iraqi intransigence.

The potential toll of U.S. military intervention got little attention. During tortuous budget wrangles in Washington, media dutifully cooperated with politicians in ignoring the financial drain, and the related cut-backs in domestic human-needs funding got little notice. And news coverage dodged the enormous human suffering and death certain to occur with a U.S. attack.

Until he was fired last autumn by NBC affiliate KRON in San Francisco, Bob Jimenez was one of the few Latino news anchors on U.S. television. In an interview with freelance journalist Laura Fraser, he expressed concern about the coverage of the Gulf crisis. "It's from a strictly nationalistic perspective," Jimenez said. "Anything Saddam Hussein does is propaganda, and anything Bush does is in the best interest of the Middle East."

A substantial showing for the Democrats in the November elec-

tions gave opponents of the impending war the illusion that public debate for continued reliance on sanctions could be maintained in the U.S. Congress. "We have to stop talking and acting in this country as if it were Bush's decision," declared anti-war activist Daniel Ellsberg, who advocated putting the heat on Congress. The idea had its attractions for those opposed to war, if only because the constitutional power to declare war is supposed to rest with the legislative branch.

Inflated by the media which had a stake in promoting the facade of debate, faith in Congress would prove to be suicidal. Liberal members, wheeled out to impersonate anti-war speakers, usually were atomic and convoluted. While raising objections to procedure, process, and timing, they evaded fundamental issues of war and peace. By staking out a pole supposedly opposite from the war enthusiasts in the White House, some Democratic Party leaders presented tactical objections which were depicted by the media as the essence of opposition. This framing process worked to defraud people across the

U.S. who did not support military intervention. Those who didn't swallow the Bush prescription were offered subtle bromides, as if the only realistic and responsible arguments were the ones to be heard on ABC's "Nightline" and Public Broadcasting's "MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour" TV programme.

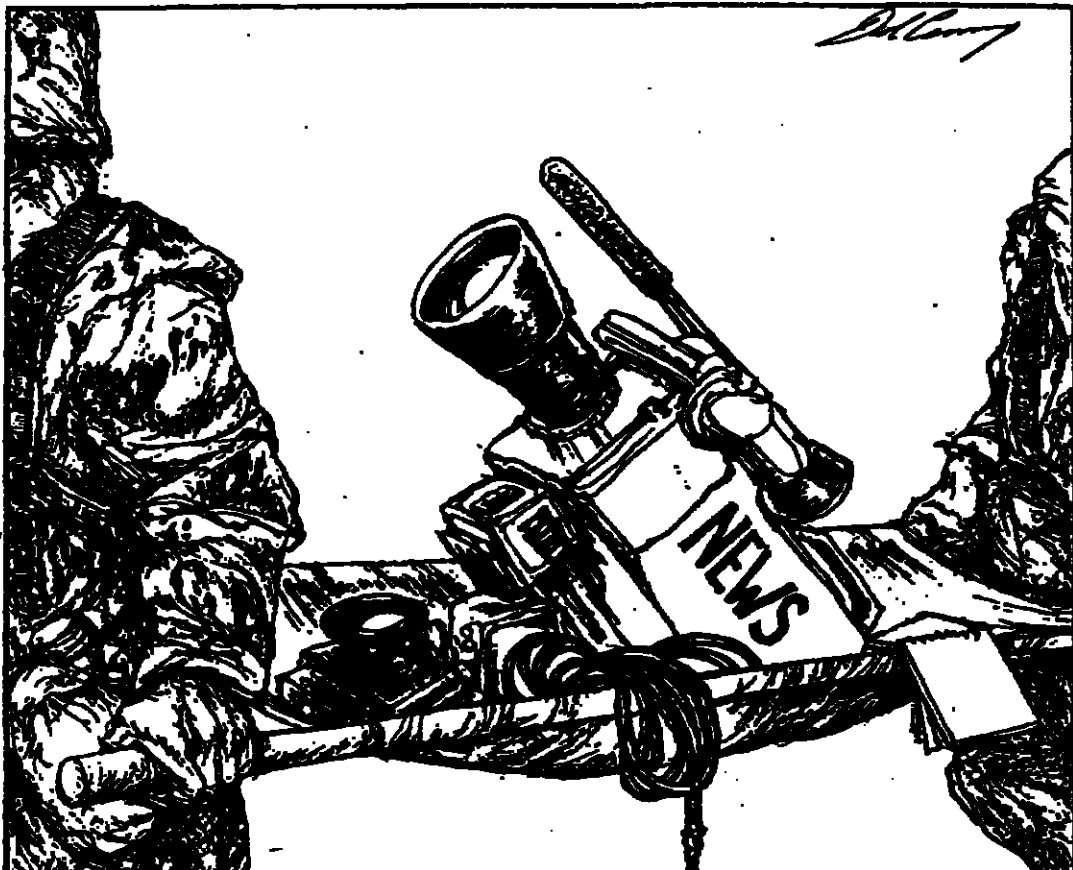
The media-watch organisation FAIR, based in New York, reported on how these two programmes helped establish the media frame at the outset of the Gulf crisis: "The 'experts' used by these shows generally came from the conservative think tanks like the American Enterprise Institute and the Center for Strategic and International Studies, with analysts from the Brookings Institution, and the 'left' boundary of thought. Never tapped were progressive think tanks such as the Institute for Policy Studies or the World Policy Institute."

At year's end, the air was full of controversies and quibbles, but they centered on how and when - not whether anyone - to go to war. Actual journalism, done a not-so-slow fade to black, seemed to be among the first casualties of this war as the war went up and the troops went down.

To hear TV networks tell it, 1991 approached, American troops were ready, willing, and eager for a fight. Meanwhile, Baghdad regime was also keen on television to psych the U.S. population for the coming clash. Interviewed soldiers were boasting on TV screens boasting that the Americans attacked, they would encounter bloody carnage beyond their worst nightmare. The media war danced choreographed with different styles but equivalent intent: go with the military programme.

Across Indochina today, there are millions who have suffered a generation of sorrow, in large measure because, in the mid-1960s, American mass media functioned less as a fourth estate than a fourth branch of government. Across the United States, as well, the enormous toll is still tangible and the emotional wounds impossible to quantify.

In the year 2015, we wondered as the war loomed, how many of us would look back in anger at yet another collapse of American journalism, which a quarter-century earlier had failed to do much more than provide stenographic services for U.S. policy makers.



Bush heeds domestic pressure in cutting nuclear arms

By Carol Giacomo
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The cuts President George Bush announced in the U.S. nuclear arsenal followed pressure on him from Congress and arms control advocates to seize a historic opportunity opened by the Soviet revolution to reduce arms of mass destruction.

While the proposal Mr. Bush outlined in a televised speech on Friday night did not go nearly as far as some experts recommended, it was bold enough to set a tone and give momentum for a new era.

Before the speech, which Mr. Bush drafted with a small group of advisers, as is his custom, he was faulted for being slow to

respond to Soviet pleas for economic aid.

That complaint may now be overlooked, at least for the moment, as the world contemplates nuclear arms reduction by the superpowers, a process which Mr. Bush said could help the Soviet economy. A Soviet spokesman said Moscow would follow the U.S. lead in cutting its arsenal.

The U.S. proposal, developed after the aborted August coup against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, seeks to take advantage of the post-coup political shakeup that has put reformers in the ascendancy.

Mr. Bush announced plans to eliminate thousands of U.S. battlefield nuclear arms and shipborne cruise missiles and to speed up elimination of thousands of

strategic nuclear arms under the new START (Strategic Arms Reduction Talks) treaty.

He also proposed that the United States and the Soviet Union seek early agreement on eliminating all intercontinental ballistic missiles with multiple warheads, the most destabilising arms.

This was a turnaround for an administration that seemed ready to pause in arms control talks after Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev signed in Moscow on July 31 the landmark START pact that would reduce long-range arsenals by about 30 per cent.

At the time, U.S. officials said the need for economic cooperation had replaced the old cold war agenda of arms control as the main feature of U.S.-Soviet relations.

Secretary of State James Bak-

er, the first senior U.S. official to visit Moscow after the coup, was impressed with many of the newly dominant Soviet reformers he met there and his views likely were important in Mr. Bush's decision-making.

But there is uncertainty how a Soviet Union, where power is fragmenting, will control thousands of nuclear warheads. "There are two motivations for this (Bush) proposal," said a senior Democratic adviser in the Senate.

"Arms control was dead in this administration before the coup. But then the briefcase (containing Soviet nuclear codes) was stolen during the coup and they realised the problem of arms control had not gone away," he said. Mr. Bush's proposal shows how the political tide has shifted.

Throughout the late 1980s, Mr. Gorbachev dominated the U.S.-Soviet arms agenda with a series of headline-grabbing initiatives.

Now Mr. Bush appears to have taken the initiative, a course many have been advising him to follow.

"I can tell you I believe we have an unparalleled opportunity for major strides forward in arms control," Senator Osborne Pell, chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee earlier this week.

"It's clear for instance that there is a building consensus here and in the Soviet Union for really major reductions in nuclear warhead arsenals," Mr. Pell said.

The White House expected that arms control advocates in the Senate would argue that START did not do justice to the sweeping

changes in the Soviet Union.

"They needed something to placate critics (in Congress) so that when START comes up (for approval), Mr. Bush should say we have a plan for the future," the Senate aide said.

Groups supporting arms control, like the Union of Concerned Scientists, had recommended the U.S. and Soviet Union reduce strategic nuclear warheads, now at about 12,000 and 10,000 respectively, to a level of 3,000 or 4,000 each and by the end of the century, drop that total to 1,000 to 2,000.

Mr. Bush did not go that far. Arms to be withdrawn focus on tactical or short-range systems, which lack realistic targets since Moscow started pulling troops out of Europe in 1990.

Handwritten signature: "Sawt Al Shamm"

India seeks role for silent Sonia

By Ruth Pitchford
Reuters

NEW DELHI — 'Sonia to join Mother Teresa' Asked India's Tribune newspaper Sunday as the world's most populous democracy sought a role for the Italian-born widow who now represents the dynasty that ruled it for four decades.

Sonia Gandhi has become India's favourite enigma since her husband, former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, was blown up by a woman suicide bomber on May 21, ending his family's dominance of Indian politics since independence from Britain in 1947.

His widow's silence on her future has fuelled articles like the Tribune's, which stopped short of suggesting the elegant 44-year-old should become a nun but did say Mother Teresa wanted her to become trustee of the missionary's funds.

Mother Teresa, whose work among the destitute and dying of Calcutta won her the

Nobel Peace Prize, Sunday denounced a newspaper report that Mrs. Gandhi might work for her charity.

"This is not nice," said the 81-year-old nun, whose modest mission to help India's poorest and most populous city has turned her into the head of an international organisation.

"This is not the truth," she said in a telephone interview. "What is the idea of such news? Anybody who is trying to say it is trying to embarrass her as well as me."

"I have never had any contact with Mrs. Sonia Gandhi," Mother Teresa said. "I've never seen her, never spoken to her and she has never written to me."

No comment was immediately available from 10 Janpath, the official residence where Sonia Gandhi receives few visitors below the rank of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao.

Mr. Rao succeeded her husband as Congress Party leader during the general election which Mr. Gandhi died fighting, leaving Sonia

Gandhi trapped in both a personal and political dilemma.

She has to let it be known, soon whether she will contest the Amethi parliamentary seat in north India which her husband won the day before he died, the first of three days of polling.

"At the same time, she is unanimously believed to be obliged to keep some sort of seat in Indian public life warm for her 19-year-old daughter Priyanka, groomed for politics by Rajiv Gandhi in preference to 21-year-old son Rahul."

But in parliament she could not avoid becoming a focus for dissenters within Congress and a threat to Mr. Rao's authority.

At the same time, she is unanimously believed to be obliged to keep some sort of

seat in Indian public life warm for her 19-year-old daughter Priyanka, groomed for politics by Rajiv Gandhi in preference to 21-year-old son Rahul.

Priyanka would be the fourth in a political dynasty founded — most historians believe unintentionally — by independent India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.

His daughter, Indira Gandhi, succeeded him in 1966, two years after his death. When Indira Gandhi was assassinated by Sikh bodyguards in 1984, Rajiv Gandhi took over as prime minister.

He lost power in 1989 polls but continued to dominate India's political life.

Making plain that he knew nothing of Sonia Gandhi's thinking and did not believe anyone else did either, independent political commentator Nihal Singh said of the mission work suggestion: "I wouldn't rule it out. She's in a terrible predicament."

"She was looking after Amethi for Rajiv and the people there would want her."

But the implications are such that she could topple the government (if she joined parliament).

"On the other hand she has to think of the children, particularly the daughter who seems to want to go after the grandmother (Indira Gandhi)."

A figurehead role with the Missionaries of Charity "would give Sonia a general standing that she could use for her daughter at a later stage," Mr. Singh said.

Mr. Rao, an impressive 70-year-old veteran of Congress backrooms, refuses to shed any light on Sonia Gandhi's dilemma.

Interrogated by India's "Sunday" current affairs weekly on whether she should stand for Amethi, he replied:

"I will do whatever the (Congress) parliamentary board wants me to do... I would not be opposed to Mrs. Gandhi doing anything she wants to do..."

Mr. Rao concluded: "What she thinks will be good for the party will be good for the party."



Sonia Gandhi and her children, Priyanka and Rahul, (from left to right) are seen attending a memorial service for Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi.

Job hunting U.K. prince highlights problems of royals seeking a role

By Anne Senior
Reuters

LONDON — Edward Windsor, Cambridge-educated theatre executive and one-

time marine cadet, seeks challenging position in drama business. Four years' experience. Good social connections. Free publicity guaranteed.

Twenty-seven-year-old Windsor, better known as Prince Edward, is one of many thousands of young Britons to fall victim to the country's economic recession

and find himself out of a job. Which is a bit of a blow to Queen Elizabeth's youngest son when you consider he had to fight royal tradition and the taunts of the popular

press to get a job in the first place.

The young prince abandoned the military career laid out for him and went into the theatre business four years ago, becoming the first son of a British monarch to take an ordinary salaried job.

After starting as a humble production assistant with hit composer Andrew Lloyd Webber, Prince Edward left with a group of colleagues a year ago to form an independent theatre company in which he hoped to play a more central role.

But his company was forced to close because of a theatre slump and the prince is now between jobs — or as they say in show business, "resting."

Buckingham Palace said the prince was keen to continue his career in the theatre. "He obviously enjoyed the job very much," a palace spokeswoman said. She would not divulge whether Prince Edward had received any job offers so far.

The company collapse in July does not leave the prince a pauper — he can fall back on a £100,000 (\$175,000) expense allowance from the state this year — and he has been making himself useful on the royal engagement circuit.

But with jobs hard to come by these days, the prince may just have to give up his hopes of a hands-on theatre career

and settle for being a full-time "royal" and patron of the arts.

Prince Edward's plight illustrates the problems facing young royals looking for a serious but suitable role in life.

His cousins and other lesser royals who do not get a stipend from the state have tended to open small businesses or go into the art world, as painters or gallery assistants.

Even they are under pressure to get decorous employment and not bring the monarchy into disrepute.

Viscount Linley, the son of the queen's sister Princess Margaret, is a restaurateur and furniture designer, which may be alright for an aristocrat but is deemed unseemly for a prince.

As the queen's third son, now seventh in line to the throne, Edward was never likely to be king and had a less well-defined role than his elder brothers Prince Charles and Prince Andrew.

"While Charles had his role carved out for himself as heir to the throne and Andrew had a structured career path to follow in the navy, Edward, it seems, decided he wanted to do more than produce the next generation of minor royals," said the society magazine Tatler in a recent article on Prince Edward.

"He wants a career, which is a very modern ambition for a member of the royal family."

A discreet bachelor untouched by any hint of sexual scandal, even during his student days at Cambridge University, the prince has never really captured the imagination of the media, except perhaps once when the newspapers tried to suggest he was homosexual.

The prince, who has had several girlfriends, was quoted as telling the Daily Mirror: "The rumours are preposterous."

The rumours arose out of his decision to quit the Marines after just four months' training and his subsequent association with the theatre. The tabloids taunted him over backing out of the Marines and suggested he was not tough enough, but the prince said he had realised he was just not a military man.

But what was a prince to do instead?

"The third sons of aristocratic families traditionally entered the church but that is unlikely to have ever been a real option for a member of the royal family," said Royalty magazine, a glossy monthly on British and European royals.

The prince was derided in the press when he first went into the theatre, arriving on



Prince Edward

his first day with Lloyd Webber's really useful group with a packet of tea bags to show he was just another worker. He used the name Edward Windsor.

Of course, if the prince decides to marry he may find himself much in demand as a new royal star.

"The simple truth is that Edward's life so far has been blameless and discreet," said Tatler, a magazine which counts members of the royal family among its readers.

"The media, whom he admits to finding the most boring people on Earth, have taunted him with innuendo yet the same group of people cannot wait to marry him off," it said, and offered a list of 25 possible candidates just in case the prince's thoughts were turning to matrimony after all.



Prince Edward, pictured during a dress rehearsal of Shakespeare's *Taming Of The Shrew*, was forced to close his theatre company.

Young Swazi king and his country facing change

MBABANE, Swaziland (AP) — When seasonal rains failed to arrive last year, people in this agrarian mountain kingdom sought an answer from King Mswati III, the traditional rainmaker.

The 23-year-old monarch suggested a decidedly non-traditional reason — student unrest at the university.

Tribal culture and modern influence are clashing in Swaziland, a tiny southeast African nation nestled between South Africa and Mozambique. The royal family and government have responded with a blend of consensus and strict controls to maintain stability.

City dwellers with television sets can watch "Dallas" and other shows depicting Western glamour in a country where roaming cattle hold up traffic on roads leading to posh hotels and casinos.

The king and other officials warn against spurning Swazi culture or joining political groups, banned 18 years ago by King Mswati's father, King Sobhuza II. Opposition figures have been arrested in increasing numbers, and the government has curtailed the flow of information from top officials.

Most people agree that the monarchy, with its colourful ritual dances led by King Mswati, is the backbone of the nation of 750,000 people.

Mashumi Twala, news editor of the Times of Swaziland newspaper who once was detained by the government, said people want adjustments instead of radical change.

"It's hard to imagine what this place would be without the monarchy," he said.

U.S. Ambassador Stephen Rogers agreed. "As urbanisation increases

and as people are more educated, people are going to be thinking... about how this system should evolve," he said.

But, he added, "You have to keep in mind... the great strength of Swazi tradition."

King Mswati, who was crowned in 1986 at age of 18, illustrates the varied forces at work in a country that first received television broadcasts 13 years ago.

One of King Sobhuza's 69 sons by more than 100 wives, King Mswati is himself a symbol of fertility with five wives and five children. He rules with his mother, known as the Great She Elephant.

Dressed in traditional robes with colourful feathers in his hair, King Mswati leads the secret, seasonal dance rituals for hunting, the harvest and other celebrations and passages.

But before becoming king, he attended a British boarding school and acquired a taste for Western culture, including pop music. He currently chairs the Preferential Trade Area of East and Southern Africa, a trade cooperation.

Years of cooperation group. King Sobhuza's rule allowed Swaziland to develop its agriculture, start an industrial sector and lure foreign investors wary of civil strife in neighbouring countries.

Its per capita income of about \$800 ranks among the highest in sub-Saharan Africa. Swaziland depends on South Africa for most of its foreign trade and receives ample aid from the United States and other Western nations.

Economic sanctions against South Africa encouraged some Western com-

panies to establish operations in Swaziland, valued for its stability. The lifting of sanctions due to South Africa's reforms could reduce new investment or trade by foreign countries as they return to South Africa.

Along with economic change, King Mswati also faces demands for political reform.

His father, who ruled for 61 years and gained independence from Britain in 1968, created a hybrid political system called *inkhundla* a decade later.

It includes indirect elections in which voters choose an electoral college that then selects the parliament. The nation is divided into 40 tribal districts, each with layers of local leaders to discuss grievances and issues in a bid for consensus.

The monarchy generally

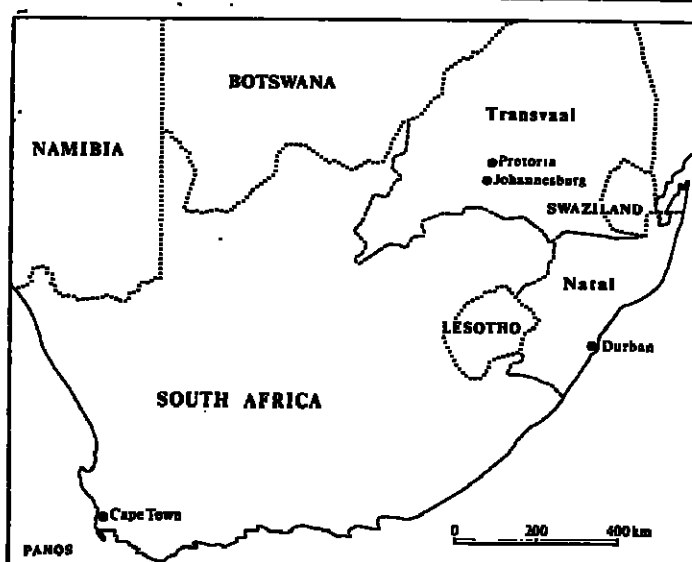
issues decrees and the government carries them out.

A small number of mostly young, educated Swazis are calling for a Western-style constitution that permits political parties and democratic elections. They complain of unemployment, increased crime and the lack of a direct voice in government.

One opposition activist, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said many people are feeling the bite of the economic and social problems. He said the country must let go of some of its old ways to deal with these new issues.

He was arrested a few weeks later for taking part in a political rally, a crime under King Sobhuza's anti-party decree.

King Mswati has appointed a commission to review the political system by travelling



the country and asking people what they think. Possible changes could include direct elections for the parliament.

But the leadership has refused to recognise the underground, fledgling People's United Democratic Movement. A rarely used law permitting detentions without trial remains in effect, drawing protests from human rights groups and Western nations.

While the opposition is not considered a serious threat, the leadership's reaction indicates it doesn't want it to grow.

The government recently started requiring journalists seeking information from top officials to submit written questions that receive written responses. It controls the radio and television but there are several independent newspapers.

Multi-faced beings

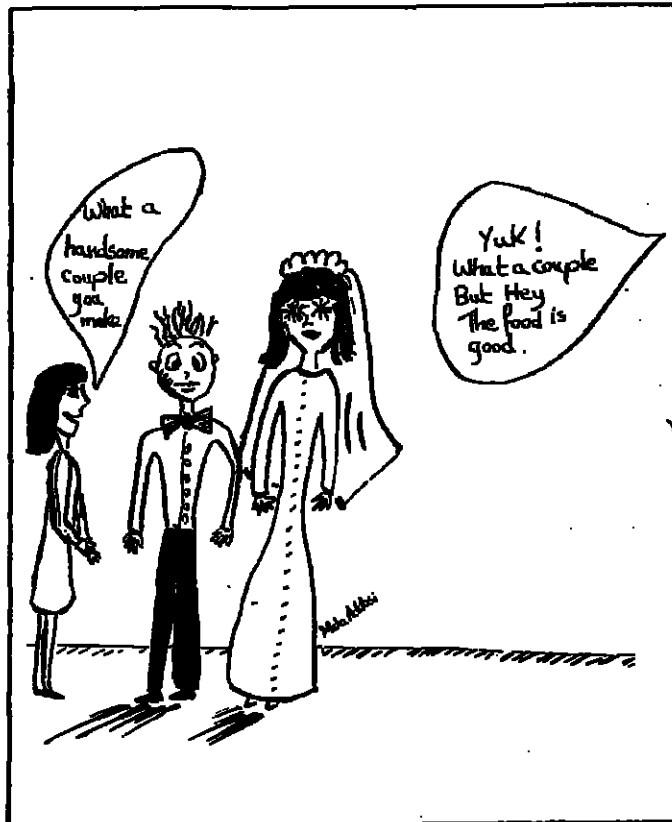
By Maha Addasi

I wish people would make up their minds about other people. They either like them or they do not. Not both. Yet many people have the gifted talent of the Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Syndrome. Hiccupping their way through life, alternating from one personality to the other.

For example, analysing couples at their weddings. If these people like the bride and she's tall they say she looks like a model. If they hate her, she's the size of an ogre. If the bride is short and they like her, she's "so petite and cute." If they cannot stand her, "it must be stunted growth. For a very long time when the couple were walking down the stairs we could only see the groom. The bride was shorter than the railing."

But these people would not say something like that to the people concerned. Of course not. That would not be "civilised" enough. Instead, they would be eating dinner at the wedding party, paid for by the couple, and commenting among themselves between bites: "He's so old for her. Chomp. Chomp." When right before the wedding that same person, while talking to the couple, said that "they make the cutest couple he has ever seen his whole life."

So how long are we to continue having these double standards? Let me stress the fact that I am not generalising here. Not everyone has these tendencies. There are people and friends whom you could almost trust with your life and you know fully that they will tell you their honest to God true opinion about anything and everything because they really care. The people I am talking about are those whom you would not trust even to give you the correct ingredients for a recipe. (I once got a recipe for bread that had one cup of flour and six cups of water! "Gosh," I said. "And all the while, I thought that was the recipe for glue.") I was aware that I could not trust this person with a cut toe-nail, but I just had to have proof. And there it was. However the problem is that if each time something like this happens and you drop that "friend," you will end up with very few remaining "friends." On the other hand if you do not drop them, you slowly begin to conform to their new standards, even without realising it.



Someone could ask you what you think of their driving and you would say it is fine even though you are praying that they do not have to stop at the coming traffic light and suffer whip lash. If someone asks you what you think of her dress, even if it is a grotesque colour you would never ever wear, you would say something like "the colour goes so well with your eyes." The conclusion is that everyone ends up having a hypocritical part in them. The solution is that we should know who our real friends are, and sorry guys, learn to live with the rest.

Health myths persist

By Rich Hampson
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stay warm to avoid a cold, drink milk to ease an ulcer, suck out the venom to treat a snakebite. And while you're at it, call in the leeches to take care of your extra energy.

Inherited medical wisdom often is no wisdom at all, according to the October issue of American Health Magazine, which lists 10 medical myths that persist despite scientific evidence.

COLDS: Repeated experiments in England indicate that people left shivering outdoors are no more likely to catch a cold than those who stay warm indoors. That's because colds are caused by viruses, and unless there's a virus out in the cold with you, you're not going to get a cold.

ULCERS: Milk may taste bland, but it is rich in protein,

which stimulates acid production in the stomach and only irritates an ulcer.

SNAKEBITES: Using your mouth to suck venom out is the worst thing you can do for such a wound, since the bacteria in your mouth multiply the risk of infection. An equally misguided, if popular, snakebite treatment is the application of a tourniquet, which can kill tissue by cutting off the blood supply.

Why do such myths endure in an era when surgery is no longer performed by barbers?

"People need rules of thumb to order their lives," says Yale University's Jack Warner, who teaches the history of medicine.

"These rules take on new meaning as they're passed from generation to generation," he said in a telephone interview. "They gain authority, because often it com-

es from someone who is known and trusted. And even if you don't believe all of a rule, you might suspect there has to be something to it."

He noted that bloodletting was popular early in the last century because people believed that disease resulted from an excess of energy in the body. Leeches, accordingly, were used to draw off energy by drawing off blood.

Later in the century the prevailing myth held disease was largely a problem of too little energy, and doctors began reviving their patients with fortified wine.

Today, misinformation still runs rampant.

Contrary to what your grandparents may have told you, there is no evidence that chocolate causes pimples; mayonnaise is vastly overrated as a source of bacterial infection; and fasting will not shrink your stomach any

more than it will shrink your mouth.

Vision is an area particularly susceptible to popular misconception. Children who cross their eyes will not become cross-eyed — those who have enough muscular control to deliberately cross their eyes are probably the least likely to be cross-eyed.

Similarly, reading in dim light won't ruin your eyes, although you might get a tension headache. And children's eyesight does not necessarily deteriorate after they start wearing glasses, provided the glasses are properly prescribed.

The moral of our story? Feel free to sit out in the yard this winter. You can bring along several egg salad sandwiches and a box of chocolates, and read the latest issue of American Health well past dusk. But watch out of rattlesnakes.

German dictionary reunited after 40 years of separation

By Erik Kirschbaum
Reuters

FRANKFURT — "Capitalism — economic and social order whose driving force is the individual earning profit" — so read the entry in the former west German Duden dictionary.

"Capitalism — a social formation based upon the exploitation of the labourers through private property and production means" — ran the definition in the former east German Duden dictionary.

Just under a year after the two Germanys became one, the German language's most famous dictionary has been reunited after 40 years and six separate editions.

The east German version of the Duden — the guide to correct German language spelling and usage — has been consigned to history. The Duden publishing house has just released the dictionary's 20th edition, the first all-German version since 1947. Its definition of "capitalism" and most political terms are from the west German edition.

But the new book includes scores of words used in the former east Germany and words stemming from its 1989 revolution — "mauerspecht" (someone pecking away at the Berlin Wall), "ossi" and "wessi" (slightly derogatory terms for east and west Germans).

"A lot of words in former

east Germany were suppressed for ideological reasons and could not be found in any reference book," said Guenther Drosdowski, Duden's editor in chief.

The east German Communist Party tried to manipulate the language. Their goal was to create a new Socialist person.

Thousands of east Germans were jailed for "republikflucht" (leaving the country illegally), but the word never appeared in the east German Duden.

The west German Duden, which operated without such ideological constraints, was banned in east Germany.

East Germans will now be able to find for the first time terms such as "meinungs-freiheit" (freedom of opinion), "weltreise" (journey round the world), "freizeit" (leisure time) and "Stasi" (secret police).

"Almost all the political terms were taken over from the west Duden," said Werner Scholze-Stubenrecht, a senior editor. "We felt we had been more objective in ideology."

A team of 22 editors from east and west Germany, Austria and Switzerland worked frantically for 18 months to update the book. The reunited edition was published about 18 months ahead of the original schedule.

"We are not only satisfied, we're exhausted and grog-

gy," said Mr. Drosdowski, who like many Germans sprinkles his comments with words borrowed from the English language.

The latest edition has swollen by some 6,000 words to a record 115,000 entries, double the number of new entries in the previous 1986 west German edition.

A deluge of English words adopted by German speakers has also added significant weight to the book's 832 pages. There are now about 4,000 English terms, double the number in 1945.

By comparison, Mr. Drosdowski estimated that only about 10 French words have been added in the last 45 years.

"New English words are flooding into the German language almost every day, most of them from America," said Mr. Drosdowski. "The acceleration has been unbelievable."

Some of the latest additions include "das fastfood," "die hooligans," "das job-hopping," "das joint-venture," "der telefonsex," "die legwarmers," "das outfit" and "der lifestyle" as well as verbs like "relaxen" and "talken."

A small number of Russian words that were used mainly in east Germany have also been added, including "die datscha" (weekend house), "die soljanka" (a soup), "Die perestroika" and "die

glasnost" have also been added.

The new Duden has nearly 40,000 more words than the east German Duden, which Mr. Drosdowski said focused on literary language and avoided colloquial terms.

"They sifted the everyday language out," he said. "They were a bit prudish. The west Duden saw itself as a problem-solver. It was not there to stifle words but to present them."

The east German Duden avoided geographical references, such as Koenigsberg (the former name of the Soviet city of Kaliningrad, which was German until 1945) and Danzig (now Gdansk in Poland).

Duden's owners, publishing house Bibliographisches Institut und F.A. Brockhaus, left Leipzig in 1948 after the east German government confiscated it and made it a "people's owned enterprise." The company was relocated in Mannheim, west Germany, in 1953.

An east German version continued to be published in Leipzig, where the lexicon first appeared in 1880. East Germany published a 14th edition in 1951. The first West German edition, also called the 14th, was printed in Mannheim in 1954.

The Mannheim Duden reacquired the Leipzig firm earlier this year.

Stay away Peter, come back Paul

By E. Yaghi

Peter is a black American. Paul is white. Both are friends, young healthy men the same age, who attended the same school and received similar grades in the city of Anytown, USA. One day, these two comrades set out to prove their theory that America is governed by prejudices and riddled with discrimination stereotyping and racism. It is many people's claim that they are free from prejudices, but just beneath a false exterior of fake smiles lies a hatred for non-whites and non-conformists.

In order to prove their theory, Peter and Paul roamed about a typical American city seeking various opportunities they equally qualified for. It was a cool day, unusually so for September. Peter and Paul puffed clouds of frozen breath as they stuffed their hands in their jacket pockets. Paul, the white, said: "We'd better make our plan clear before we start. I'll go first then you follow in about ten minutes. We shouldn't be seen together so no one will know we're friends."

Peter, the black, answered: "Sure thing. Meet you at the corner. I'll be following you until you finish. Be seeing you, good luck!"

"No, Peter, it's you who's going to need the good luck!" They both laughed and then separated. Paul went ahead of Peter. His first stop was an appointment to see an apartment. A rusty little man rushed over to greet him. "Hi, you must be Paul. I'm Don Nutt. You said you were interested in renting an apartment."

"Howdy, Mr. Nutt. Yes, I am. Do you have anything available? I'm looking for a one bedroom flat."

"Sure we do, sir. How soon are you planning to move in?"

"As soon as possible. I need an apartment that is closer to my work." Paul said as he shifted his weight from one foot to another and then coughed from Mr. Nutt's cigarette smoke that seeped down into his lungs.

"All right. I've got quite a few apartments. We can go right now and look at some if you're interested and have time." The rusty Nutt said with enthusiasm.

"Well, thanks a lot. I've got some other chores to do and then I'll be getting back to you." And as he turned to go out the door, he said, "Bye now Mr. Nutt."

"Bye Paul, have a nice day!"

About ten minutes later, Peter entered the office of Mr. Nutt who prided himself on being non-prejudiced. "Hi there, are you Mr. Nutt? I'm Peter. I called you earlier about seeing an apartment. You said you had some apartments for me to look at."

Mr. Nutt squinted and almost choked on his cigarette. He hadn't suspected Peter was black. "Yes, I'm Nutt, but we don't have any apartments left. I just refused a few minutes ago, a gentleman named Paul. Sorry about that, but apartments go pretty fast, here, there's a great demand you know!"

"Yah, sure. He knows I'm black so he doesn't have an apartment for me. I'm positive he offered one to Paul." Peter thought to himself. "OK, thanks." He said out loud and turned on his heels as he heard the Nutt heave a sigh of relief.

Next, Paul went to a car dealer. He walked around the car lot admiring different makes, models and years of cars. He pounded some tire with his foot, opened a few lids, studied a few engines and then was joined by a shady wheeler dealer who said, "Good morning there. Interested in buying a car for yourself? We've got some good bargains. As a matter of fact, I'm interested in buying a used car. Got any good deals at low prices?" Paul queried, as his eyes searched for an economical purchase.

"Of course, right over here, sir." Shady gestured. "Here are some domestic and foreign cars. Just what you interested in?"

"Well, I'm interested in these Plymouths. How much are you asking for one?" He said, pointing to two twin cars. "All right sir, now these cars cost about \$4,000 each, give or take a little." His beady little eyes gleamed and a wide grin spread from one ear to the other.

"Let's bargain. How about \$3,000?" Paul asked.

"That's too low. \$3,500 sounds better. His smile remained plastered on his face. He could almost feel that

money jingle in his pocket. "All right, \$3,500. I'll go to the bank and get some money out. I'll get in touch with you later."

"Why sure, see you then, don't forget, my name's Shady. Nice meeting you, sir!"

Paul left. After a few minutes, Peter walked over and began to look for a car just like Paul did. He checked some engines and kicked a few tires. No one rushed out to see him. After a while, Shady sauntered over. He really didn't want to greet Peter. He didn't like blacks. Too uppity for him. Besides, they weren't fit to walk around white men. Should have their own areas of town and stick to them. But he grumbled out a "Hi, how are you today?"

"Fine. I'm looking for a car, preferably used. Got anything good?"

"Yes. We have some good domestic cars over there. Come on, let's take a look."

They walked together, but Shady was careful to keep his distance. He despised walking next to blacks. Peter had seen Paul just before he entered the car lot and they had agreed that he too would ask for the same kind of Plymouth that Paul had asked for. "Say, I like this car here, how much are you asking for it?"

"\$5,000."

"Isn't that too much? It's used. I'll give you \$4,000 cash."

"Nope, we don't bargain. \$5,000 and that's final, take it or leave it!"

"No thanks," Peter said and hung his head in disappointment. No one knew how hard it is to be black. "I can't afford more than \$4,000."

"Sorry then. If you want it for 5, then you can have it, if not then that's it."

Next, Paul went for a job interview. He and Peter were both equally qualified for this job, but both were curious what results they would have. "Hello there, Mr. Bias," Paul said as he entered the allotted room for his meeting. "I'm here for the job interview."

Mr. Bias sat half sunk from view, only his head lay on top of his desk as if he had been beheaded. However, when Paul entered his oval room, he sat up and then stood, holding out his hand towards Paul. "Hello there young man. Nice meeting you. I've got your application in front of me and your resume. Let's talk for a few minutes. We've got several applicants, so after I finish interviewing all of them, I'll let you know what I've decided."

They talked for a while. Mr. Bias was quite cordial and even threw a few jokes to lighten the conversation. When Paul rose to leave, Mr. Bias accompanied him to the door and gave him a friendly slap on the back and waved good-bye.

Peter was scheduled next. He entered the dim room. Mr. Bias's head again looked like a head without a body, a huge ball just sitting on top of an even bigger shiny desk. His saggy eyes narrowed when he saw that Peter was black. He hated blacks! Couldn't stand them. But he had to interview some blacks just to keep his appearances up so he wouldn't be accused of being prejudiced. He remained seated, and didn't budge. He hardly straightened himself in his large chair. "Good morning, sir. My name is Peter. I'm here for the job interview."

"Humph! I'm sorry, but the position's been filled!" Mr. Bias said in a gruff voice.

"But Mr. Bias, I had an appointment! On the telephone you told me that you liked my application and that's why you scheduled this interview." He understood the biased reaction, but he didn't want to give up.

"Yes, true. It's unfortunate that just this morning, I hired someone that fit the job just perfectly. There are other jobs." His cold manner and icy voice fit the frozen mask he wore on his face when spoke to Peter. He didn't get up or walk Peter to the door but remained glued to his seat.

So goes the story of Peter and Paul. They proved their theory that though they both attended the same school, received similar grades and came from good backgrounds, Paul had all the advantages over Peter, for he was white and Americans truly are racist and prejudiced. Peter wakes up every morning with the fact that he is black and life is so much harder because of his colour.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Oct. 3

8:30 The Simpsons.

9:10 Beyond West World.

My Brother's Keeper

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie At The West.

The Burbs.

Starring: Tom Hanks and

Brace Derr

Friday, Oct. 4

8:30 Coach.

9:10 Shakespeare

Othello

10:00 News In English

10:20 Simon And Simon

Caught Between Devil And

Blue Deep Sea

Saturday, Oct. 5

8:30 Totally Hidden Video

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Classical Music

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

The Law and Jake Wade

Starring: Robert Taylor, Richard Widmark and Patricia Owens

Sunday, Oct. 6

8:30 The Golden Girls

9:10 Wish Me Luck

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Orchid House

Return Of The Master

Starring: Diana Quick, Nigel Terry and Kate Mulgrew

Monday, Oct. 7

8:30 Hey Dad

9:10 The Midas Touch

The world religion

10:00 News In English

10:20 Gabriels Fire

Starring: James Earl Jones, Laila Robbins and Brian Grant

Tuesday, Oct. 8

8:30 Who's The Boss

Starring: Toni Danza, Judith Light and Alyssa Milano

9:10 Our House

The Stringtown Treasure

Starring: Wilford Brinley, Deldre Hall, Shannah Doherty and Chad Allen

10:00 News In English

10:20 Columbo

Now You See Him

Starring: Peter Falk

Columbo learns a few magic tricks to expose a magician who killed his manager

Wednesday, Oct. 9

8:30 The Family Man

The boss's daughter

Jack Courts his Boss's daughter to get a promotion, but then discovers it is wrong, and gets the promotion anyway

10:00 News In English

10:20 Equal Justice

The prosecutors at the district attorney's office carry on with their good work in spite of their personal



Keri Houlihan stars in Our House Tuesday at 9:10

9:10 Cosmos

Heaven And Hell

10:00 News In English

10:20 Equal Justice

Back with the wind — the return of Rhett and Scarlett

By Hillel Italie
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Alexandra Ripley may be the first author to receive second billing on the cover of her own book. But the book is the sequel to *Gone With The Wind*, and Ripley isn't about to complain about her name appearing below Margaret Mitchell's.

"There's a voice in this book and that's Margaret Mitchell's, that's what I was after," Ripley said in a recent interview, a day before the scheduled release of the long-awaited "Scarlett: The Sequel to Margaret Mitchell's *Gone With The Wind*."

"It's such an easy shot. People can be so clever. Margaret Mitchell would have never done this. This should have never been done." When bad reviews start coming in, I could say they won't bother me, that's a lie. They will bother me. I'm just hoping to get more good reviews than bad reviews."

The book runs 823 pages, about 200 less than *Gone With The Wind*. It closely follows Mitchell's style, with much of the action taking place from Scarlett O'Hara's point of view.

And Ripley keeps Scarlett

moving: From her sister-in-law Melanie's funeral in Georgia, to an attempted reconciliation with Rhett Butler in Charleston, to a journey to Ireland and the start of a new life.

Does Scarlett find a way to get Rhett back? You won't find out until the last few pages. Other information, however, can be safely divulged:

— Mammy dies shortly after Scarlett returns to Tara from Melanie's funeral. Rhett shows up to pay his respects, but Rebuffs Scarlett and quickly return to Charleston.

— Ashley Wilkes and Scarlett agree to be just friends and she even helps introduce him to the woman he ends up marrying.

— Scarlett meets many of her relatives from both sides of the family in Ireland and becomes especially close to her cousin Colum O'Hara, a priest and a militant opponent of British rule in Ireland.

— Scarlett and Rhett have a very brief fling in Charleston and she later gives birth to a girl, Katie Colum O'Hara, nicknamed "Cat." Scarlett does not tell Rhett about the pregnancy.

— After Scarlett leaves for Ireland, Rhett divorces her

and marries a Charleston woman.

— In Ireland, Scarlett agrees to marry Britain's notorious Earl of Fenton, but her decision becomes less final when Rhett unexpectedly arrives.

"I wanted the ending to be a surprise," Ripley said. "I wanted to postpone as long as possible the answer to the big question. It's fun. I love writing and I love making up stories. I love playing games with the reader."

Mitchell, killed in a car accident in 1949, lives long enough to see her book become an international phenomenon and Academy Award-winning movie, but not to see the civil rights movement that made the world so different from the one she knew.

Gone With The Wind contains pages and pages of racist content, but Scarlett makes virtually no reference to race. Ripley said she omitted slave dialogue because she found it offensive and wanted to concentrate on other matters besides racial relations.

"I do sort of avoid any black-white interaction," she said. "I didn't see that there was any need to express that. It had nothing to do with the story I was telling. That's one



Vivien Leigh (as Scarlett) and from the film *Gone With The Wind*. Clark Gable (as Rhett) in a scene from *Wind*.

reason I was sort of happy to get to Ireland, where everybody was white, so I did not have that to deal with."

Ripley, 57, is the author of three historical romance novels and was chosen by Mitchell's estate to write the sequel to the Pulitzer Prize-

winning novel.

About 900,000 copies of the new book already have been shipped to stores and Ripley says a sequel to her sequel is likely. But, she added, she doesn't want to write it.

"I want to write my own

books," she said. "This makes it possible for me to write my own book and have more people read them. I've become a brand name. Like Campbell's soup and Ivory soap. My books, thank God, have always done well, but not like this."

Shakespeare Company theatre houses new hit

By Matt Wolf
The Associated Press

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, England — The Royal Shakespeare Company has a new theatre and a new hit to go with it. A stage adaptation of the Blue Angel that almost banishes memories of Marlene Dietrich and the celebrated German movie.

The production, directed by Trevor Nunn, opened Aug. 29 in the company's smallest Stratford Theatre, the Other Place. Kelly Hunter fills Dietrich's shoes — and sings her songs — as the scheming chanteuse Lola, and Philip Madoc memorably

plays the repressed professor, Herr Raat, whose downfall she hastens.

Playwright Pam Gems' play-with-music spins a lengthy tale of personal and societal degradation on the eve of Hitler's Third Reich, but the premiere had critics commenting as much on the playhouse as on the show within it.

"My first duty is to report that the Other Place-lives, (retaining) its special atmosphere," Michael Coveney wrote in the Observer. He praised the Gems-Nunn collaboration as "hypnotically double-edged."

The new red-brick Other

Place, with a flexible seating capacity of up to 250, replaces a smaller, ramshackle tin-roofed playhouse that occupied the same site from 1964 to 1989.

Originally used as a rehearsal studio, that Other Place opened to the public in 1974. It was closed by the company two years ago as a preemptive measure to comply with stricter Stratford licensing laws which the original structure would almost certainly have violated.

Under the supervision of architect Michael Reardon, the theatre was overhauled and modernised at a cost of about \$2.7 million. The com-

pany met the cost by selling adjacent land to various housing developers on one side and to a school in the rear.

In its earlier guise, the Other Place was home to some legendary productions, including *Macbeth* and *Othello*, both directed by Nunn, that lent a vibrant, conversational immediacy to these familiar Shakespeare tragedies.

Christopher Hampton's *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, later filmed as the award-winning *Dangerous Liaisons*, had its world premiere there in September 1985.

Nunn's *Othello*, with Ian

McKellen and Opera singer Willard White, was the theatre's last tenant before closing. The director called it "a completely happy coincidence" to be asked to open the new building with *Blue Angel*.

"It's very difficult to recreate so accidental, informal, indeed my mystical," the 51-year-old Nunn said in an interview, referring to the ambience of the first Other Place.

"That building had no right to be a theatre. It defied all analysis," said Nunn, adding that its success had to do with "lowered expectations that were raised again."

By contrast, the new space is "more imposing, built to last," he said. "It's obviously not accidental or temporary in any way."

Some things never change, such as the partly obstructed views from the second tier. Such "charming" features, Nunn laughed, had been "precisely reproduced."

With *Blue Angel* open, and its limited run sold out, Nunn turned his attention to Measure For Measure, Shakespeare's dark comedy which opened on Sept. 18.

The two shows will play in repertory in Stratford until Oct. 19 and then tour Britain through Feb. 22, 1992.

Hollywood's latest 'discovery' changes colour

By Ronald Clarke
Reuters

LOS ANGELES — Comedian Lenny Henry was walking along a New York street when he nodded towards a Black man approaching him.

"He ignored me. I wanted to go after him shouting 'look at me, brother, check me out.' But he just kept going," Henry said.

Henry, who is Black, had turned white.

"My sister walked past me. I said 'Sharon, aren't you talking to me?' She thought it

was terrible. She cried."

Henry, for years a top television entertainer in Britain but little known in the United States, is starring in the feature film "true identity" — about a man who changes his complexion to escape being killed by a mobster.

"First and foremost this is a comedy, but I was also interested in trying to comment on the subtle racism that exists in the United States," said the film's screenwriter, Andy Breckman.

In the movie, a Black man is having trouble stopping a

taxi. Henry, as a white man, immediately stops a taxi for him. Henry wanders into a mixed race area and is told to get out.

"I was over the moon when I got the part, because I had wanted to act in an American film for a long time," he said.

"But it was so claustrophobic in the make-up and it itched. And so, I had gone out onto the street for a break when I saw the man coming towards me," Henry explained. "My sister saw me during a break on the set and she did not recognise me at all, not even by my walk."

"In other words, I was caucasian."

How did Henry come to star in this, his first feature film? "A couple of years ago I made a stand-up comedy film called 'Lenny live and unleashed,'" he said.

"At the beginning, I did impressions of Richard Pryor, Eddie Murphy and Steve Martin giving me advice on how to do comedy."

"When I gave the Martin impression I did the complete look-alike with makeup. Disney got a copy of the film and liked it. My agent telephoned me from Los Angeles and

said 'you had better get out here. Disney wants to meet you.'"

"I realised the script of True Identity was very funny but needed a few things. A year later, I was in freezing cold in New York making the film for Disney's Touchstone Pictures."

Preparing for his role as Miles, Henry spent a month with a voice coach exchanging his heavy British accent for an American one.

The make-up process, at first, took four hours. Practice brought it down to two-and-a-half.

"It was daunting playing a white person for part of the film," Henry said. "The main problem was: How were we going to pull this off without offending Black people, without offending white people?"

Born in Dudley, England, to a family of four brothers and three sisters, Henry would like to portray a British character in his next film.

"It would be one thing less to worry about. I don't mind playing American characters, but when I was portraying Miles I had always to monitor my American accent," Henry said.

Dance, the new generation — A taste for paroxysm

Paris welcomed the Ballets Russes, ignored Béjart and, ten years ago, saw the development of young dance. Today, a new generation of choreographers is making its appearance.

By Philippe Verrière

PARIS — The "Biennale du Val de Marne," held every two years in the region east of Paris, has just ended. It is one of the most important French events for choreography. It provides an opportunity for promising young creators to show their talents.

In the 80s, there was an extraordinary explosion of new choreographers with Dominique Bagouet, Maguy Marin, Régine Chopinot and Karine Saporta. In spite of the interest brought about by this movement, it is still very difficult for young creators to get themselves known and if the economic situation of well-known names is ensured

today, that of young creators is extremely precarious and opportunities to discover them are few and far between.

Among these new names which should be watched closely, there is one belonging to a shy-looking young lady, Christine Bastin. But, there must be some real volcanoes lurking beneath the smiling student-like face, as well as some frightful fits of anger, as her ballets contain disquieting and fascinating violence. There is no actual blood or desperate combats, but the violence of human relations is laid bare.

Already Abel, Abeth had filled the audience with enthusiasm, leaving them agog

in their seats. Grace, the ballet presented for the closure of the biennial, completely won over the public. It bathed in a gentler atmosphere, combining extreme tenderness and repulsion in a mythical medieval setting and completely confirmed that Christine Bastin was somebody to keep an eye on.

Another success was Hervé Jourdet. He is a magnetic, slightly disconcerting person who came into dance by chance after doing parachute-jumping and tree-felling in the Médoc region. Since 1988, when he founded his company, he has created one ballet after another.

Paroxysm

He creates a very powerful world, fed on the popular imagination of the 1930s to 40s. Although Hervé Jourdet often tells a story, the show he presented at the Biennial, "Portrait de Maître On le

Réve d'un Curieux" was not a narrative. It was, in fact, a kind of short, sensual and very powerful piece of choreography, in which the choreographer follows the thoughts of a couple.

The Biennial, in particular gave a boost to young creators and, in the last few weeks, two sure successes caught the attention of dance-lovers. These are Jean-Christophe Bleton and Hervé Robbe.

After putting on *Les Orpailleurs*, a ballet which marked him sufficiently for him to name his troupe after it, Jean-Christophe Bleton once again created a very beautiful poetical show with "Le Bal Des Arpenteurs" in an atmosphere reminding one a little of Fellini in *La Strada*, the choreographer combines dance, circus and music in an entrancing parade.

Hervé Robbe had been

presented as the phenomenon to be discovered urgently, but he was wise enough not to rush into over-ambitious pieces until his latest creation *Appassionata*, in which he perfectly masters his subject and indulges in risks and extravagant ambitions. *Appassionata* is a piece in which passions are pushed to their paroxysm, leaving the dancers exhausted and the audience happy.

Even more than the feeling of a cluster of emerging young talents, what has to be retained is the coherence of a certain inspiration. These young choreographers did not work together, yet an overall unity of tone emerges.

They share a taste for powerful images in a well-constructed show with highly elaborate lighting. If they evade any excessive psychological analysis, they choose characters which have a hold



Ana, a modern dance show, is presented by Régine Chopinot's company

on the spectators and a very strong poetic feeling exudes from their work. The link is

Australian-born financier comes to the rescue at Kennedy Centre

By Bruce Russell
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Why, at the height of his career, should a successful Manhattan investment banker take over the operation of a heavily indebted theatre complex with falling receipts and a leaky roof?

"It's much more fun than investment banking," says Australian-born financier James Wolfensohn, 57, chairman of Washington's Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts.

In 18 months he has wiped out the debts, fixed the roof and begun to move toward his goal of building the centre into the cultural flagship of U.S. performing arts.

Among his ambitious plans are commissioning plays, musical works and ballets in cities across the nation and bringing them to Washington for presentation on one of Kennedy's six stages and what he calls its "seventh stage" — cultural television channels.

The Kennedy Centre is a hulking, white marble-faced rectangular building erected on a broad sweep of the Potomac River in 1971 to commemorate assassinated President John Kennedy. Its

builders failed to allow for the correct expansion of its roof in Washington's blistering summer heat and it cracked and leaked.

Immediately on his appointment in March 1990, Mr. Wolfensohn threw himself into fund raising. He talked Congress into granting an extra \$45 million for restoring the building and to pay off debts. He persuaded corporate executives to help plug the centre's annual operating deficit.

But Mr. Wolfensohn, an accomplished fund-raiser, admits the toughest part of his job may lie ahead. Building Kennedy into a true national centre of the performing arts may take years, he says. He wants it to be seen the way the National Gallery is for painting and the Smithsonian for museums.

Already the first of his production plans are getting under way. In June as part of his extensive plans for state festivals, Texas sent no fewer than 30 theatre, dance and musical companies to perform on Kennedy's stages.

Next year the Kennedy's National Symphony Orchestra will begin a "Tour America" programme of week-long visits, performing, giving master classes and bringing students in from local music schools, some of whom may be invited to perform in Washington.

His family worries about this punishing pace but sees little sign of his easing up. His daughter Sara, a concert pianist, says, "I particularly worry when he gets a grey-skinned look."

But Mr. Wolfensohn says he is not considering dropping anything right now — above all not his Kennedy Centre tasks.

On the international front, the Kennedy will host a German festival next year and a festival of the Americas to feature the performing arts of the hemisphere.

"We have lagged so far on theatre mainly because of my own lack of expertise," Mr. Wolfensohn says. He has hired Lawrence Wilker, head of a Cleveland, Ohio, Performing Arts Complex — "He lives and breathes the theatre" — to be chief operations officer and get original theatre productions going.

Mr. Wolfensohn remains supremely confident. "If you have a strong product you will always get people to support you," he says.

Mr. Wolfensohn began his career as a lawyer and investment banker in his birthplace Sydney, Australia, moved to a London investment bank and finally became a partner of Salomon Brothers in New York. He became a U.S. citizen in 1980.

Among his most spectacular successes was the financial bailout of Chrysler Corp. In the seventies, he left Salomon to set up his own investment company, partly to ensure that he had time to pursue his cultural interests.

He became a board member of Carnegie Hall in New York in 1973 and chairman of the board in 1980. As a Carnegie chairman he was approached by the Kennedy Centre for advice on picking a chairman and was eventually persuaded to take the job himself.

Even in Washington, noted for its driven, workaholic administrators and legislators, Mr. Wolfensohn is seen as something of a phenomenon.

He is constantly on the move, visiting a country or two a day for his investment firm, then popping back to Washington to put in two days a week at the Kennedy.

In between his responsibilities as a financier and impresario he has an astonishing array of hobbies. He fences and was a member of the Australian Olympic fencing team in 1956. He fishes, paints, sails and plays tennis.

He took up cello playing during his early 40s and progressed fast enough to mark his 50th birthday with a public performance on the Carnegie stage.

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no doubt too tenuous and not coherent enough for one to speak of a "school," but it is sufficient to draw attention to this rising generation — L'Actualité En France.

Could paying reluctant donors ease chronic, deadly shortages?

By A.J. Dickerson
The Associated Press

DETROIT — Every day, five to seven people in the United States die waiting for organ transplants. Every 30 minutes, the National Transplant waiting list grows by one more patient.

Every year, only about 4,500 donors are used for almost all of the 15,000 whole organ transplants performed in the United States.

"In India, they sell organs. Of course, that's illegal here," says Eleanor Forlenza, administrator of the

Transplants and Health Policy Centre at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Organ donors are also paid in other parts of the world such as the Middle East.

About 300 international medical, legal, ethical and philosophical experts gathered in Dearborn for a two-day seminar at the University of Michigan. They debated whether the donor death can be solved by paying people while they're alive for donations promised at death.

They also planned to discuss whether people should

be allowed to sell their organs, and whether such agreements could be carried out without family permission.

"There's a squeamishness about letting people sell a kidney... for monetary gain. Shouldn't people have this choice? What's the objection to using a fairly common American strategy?" said James Blumstein, a law professor at Vanderbilt University.

"There's a tremendous need for organs. The demand exists," said Prof. Blumstein. "Let's have a five-year trial in

a few states and see what happens."

But there are serious questions about allowing a free market for human livers or kidneys, adds Prof. Blumstein. Poor people in the Third World could end up being used as organ farms for the wealthy, or people could risk their health by selling a kidney. He said it also would open the possibility of preferential treatment for the rich.

One way to shore up donations might be to give people stipends, maybe paying \$50 or \$100 toward their health

insurance, in exchange for donations when they die, Prof. Blumstein said.

"If a donor has sold his organs, ... this is a done deal" and relatives couldn't object, he said. "Why should it be legal to pay the transplant surgeon but not the donor?"

Dr. Jeremiah Turcotte, a University of Michigan surgery professor and director of the transplant policy centre, blames the donor death on families being insensitively asked to donate when a loved one dies, and other factors such as nervousness.

And some don't understand when a person is declared dead.

"What does brain death mean? We need public education," said Turcotte, a conference director. Publicity about transplant success rates boosts donations, he said.

"We need more organs, in an ethical way," he said. "There are deep psychological barriers to donations ... Things like how dead bodies should be treated, the status of the soul after death," said Stuart Youngner, an associate professor of medicine, psychiatry and biomedical

ethics at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

The organ supply is easily affected by rumours, bad publicity, television shows or movies. Some transplant specialists think the 1978 movie *Coma*, about hospital patients being unwillingly used for their organs, still dampens donations.

That negative effect can be repeated by television, said Kelle Straw, a spokeswoman for the United Network for Organ Sharing in Virginia.

An episode last season on L.A. Law portrayed a poor

person selling a kidney. A *Knots Landing* episode had a rich person jump ahead of a transplant waiting list.

Even columnist Ann Landers, who supports organ donations, fueled worries this summer with a column about readers who had been charged mistakenly for thousands of dollars in expenses from donating a loved one's organs.

"We've received numerous calls from people saying they're tearing up their donor cards," Mr. Straw said. "People are going to die because of that."

Exercise reduces risk of diabetes — study

LONDON (Agencies) — Vigorous exercise at least once a week significantly reduces the risk of non-insulin-dependent diabetes in women, according to a study reported in the *Lancet*.

Women who exercised vigorously at least once a week were 33 per cent less likely to get diabetes. Overweight women who exercised reduced their risk by 16 per cent.

Similar findings were reported for men in a study released in July.

Although the vast majority of the 87,253 women studied were not overweight, investigators found that exercisers benefitted even if they didn't lose weight.

"Exercise was beneficial in both obese and non-obese women," said Dr. Joann Manson of Harvard University, the lead investigator. She spoke in a telephone interview.

Vigorous exercise is any

kind of physical activity — jogging, walking, biking — that leads to a sweat, Dr. Manson said.

She said exercise prevents diabetes in two ways. It fends off obesity, which increases the risk of diabetes, and it seems to increase the body's sensitivity to insulin.

Precisely how exercise affects insulin is still not known, she added.

"We certainly hope this will be a promising approach to preventing adult-onset diabetes," said Dr. Manson.

"It's been notoriously difficult to get people to lose weight. The other major risk factor, family history, is unchangeable."

Dr. Manson said that even women with a family history of diabetes reduced the likelihood of getting diabetes by exercising.

She said the study did not show that the more women exercised the smaller their risk of getting diabetes. For

instance, women who exercised every day reduced the risk of diabetes by the same amount as those who exercised once a week.

The subjects, between the ages of 34 and 59, are part of the Nurses Health Study at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, the largest study of its kind to focus on women's health issues.

None of these women had diabetes, heart disease, stroke, or cancer when the investigation began.

The Nurses Health Study, launched in 1976, includes 121,700 nurses who have been answering questionnaires about health, diet and exercise every two years and getting regular checkups.

After 6 years, 1,300 women got non-insulin-dependent diabetes. That form of the disease results from the body's inability to use insulin properly or to make enough insulin, which regulates sugar.

Dr. Jay S. Skyler, president of the American Diabetes Association, said the study was encouraging because it may be easier to get people to exercise once a week than to stick to a weight-loss diet.

Dr. Skyler, a professor of medicine at the University of Miami, said this study confirms similar results found in an all-male study published in a recent issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Researchers reported in July that middle-aged men who exercised regularly in their spare time have a dramatically lower risk of adult diabetes. Dr. Ralph S. Paffenbarger Jr. of Stanford University, senior author of the study, said at the time that while the researchers studied only men, the findings probably apply to women.

Some 12 million men and women in the United States

suffer from non-insulin-dependent diabetes, commonly known as adult-onset or Type II diabetes.

People who suffer from this type of diabetes, unlike insulin-dependent diabetes, do not have to take insulin to survive.

Women who develop diabetes as adults are six times more likely to have heart attacks and four times more likely to suffer a stroke than non-diabetic women, according to previous analysis of the Nurses Health Study reported in the June issue of the *Archives of Internal Medicine*.

Pregnant women whose diabetes is not kept under care-

ful control are more likely to give birth to children with lower-than-expected scores on intelligence tests, according to new research.

The findings highlight the importance of blood sugar monitoring for pregnant women who have or develop diabetes, said Thomas Rizzo, a psychiatry professor at Northwestern University Medical School in U.S. and chief author of the study.

Fortunately, Prof. Rizzo said, new techniques for measuring blood sugar are making the task increasingly easy.

The study of 223 pregnant women in Chicago, published

in the latest *New England Journal of Medicine*, found that as the woman's ability to control diabetes went down so did the intelligence test scores of her child.

"The message to women is, 'it's in your hands,'" said Prof. Rizzo. "She and her physician can control the diabetes with vigilant care, and our study suggests that the effort will be worthwhile."

The type of diabetes was not important. The 89 women who were diabetic before pregnancy were just as likely to give birth to children with lower intelligence test scores as the 99 whose diabetes appeared during pregnancy. The study also in-

cluded 35 women who had no blood sugar problems.

Prof. Rizzo said the differences in intelligence test scores among the children in the study were subtle, in part because the women were carefully monitored throughout the study.

"We had no real negative effects in our study. No children suffered badly," he said.

But the subtle differences between women with the best control of their diabetes and good control showed that "if you had much poorer control, you would have a greater risk of a child with a much lower IQ (intelligence test score)," he said.

AIDS drugs used together may prove more effective

WASHINGTON (R) — Two AIDS treatment drugs may be more effective when used together than separately and may prevent drug-resistant strains of the virus from developing, researchers said Thursday.

The effects of the two drugs, AZT and DDI (Didanosine), were studied in five patients suffering from acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) who had been on AZT for at least a year and had switched to DDI after they started to get sicker.

"Our findings lead further support to the use of multidrug therapy to treat (AIDS)," said authors of the study, which appears in the *Journal of Science*.

The AIDS virus can mutate rapidly eventually causing AZT (Zidovudine) to become ineffective in patients who develop a strain of the virus that becomes resistant to the drug.

The five patients studied developed not only the AZT mutation but also a DDI-resistant mutation.

"The important news is that the (DDI) mutation counteracts the mutation which renders the virus resistant to AZT," said Marty St. Clair, a virologist and one of the study's authors.

The research was sponsored by the makers of AZT, the London-based Wellcome Plc.

The company has just begun a study of 150 AIDS patients that will monitor patients taking both DDI and AZT simultaneously. Both drugs have potentially toxic side effects.

DDI was developed by Bristol-Myers Squibb as a cheaper, rival drug to AZT, which can cost AIDS patients up to \$4,000 annually. Bristol-Myers had no immediate comment on the study.

While DDI is considered less likely to produce the severe anemia that many AZT users experience, some patients using it have developed swelling of the pancreas and painful tingling and burning in the feet and legs.

DDI is awaiting approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, but in 1989 the agency allowed Bristol-Myers to distribute the drug at no cost to AIDS patients who were not responding to or could not afford AZT.

Meanwhile, British doctors have warned that people who

transmitted through anal sex but medical researchers discovered this year that both the vagina and mouth are lined with cells that facilitate the transmission of the AIDS virus.

Meanwhile, a study has concluded that women appear to be 17.5 times more likely to get AIDS from male sexual partners than men are from women.

The virus that causes the deadly disease may simply be more efficiently spread in women through intercourse than in men, researchers at the University of California in San Francisco said.

"We observed one probable instance (one per cent) of female-to-male transmission compared with 20 per cent transmission rates in the female partners of infected men," they said.

"The odds of a woman catching (AIDS) from an infected male are 17.5 times higher than the odds a man will catch (AIDS) from an

infected female," the report said.

The study, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, was based on 379 men and women who were not drug abusers.

The one apparent case of female-to-male transmission, uncovered, the researchers said, may have been an aberration because the woman belonged to a "swinging singles" club and reported 600 male partners and 2,000 contacts with a bisexual man over the previous five years.

In addition "as part of their 'swinging' activity, the woman would frequently have sexual intercourse with another partner while her husband first observed and then had intercourse with her immediately after the other partner," thereby increasing his exposure to the virus, the study said.

In an editorial in the same issue officials of Public Health Service warned that people in the United States have been slow to accept the notion of heterosexual transmission of AIDS, even though it has been well documented in Africa.

"A recent analysis of expected trends of AIDS cases in the United States has predicted that... the infection rate among non drug-using heterosexuals will increase over the next five years, resulting in a doubling of heterosexual AIDS cases by 1995," the editorial said.

A second study published in the journal, also from the University of California in San Francisco, reported that a sample of 1,458 women aged 19 to 37 in Kigali, Rwanda, found 32 per cent tested positive for exposure to the AIDS virus.

The researchers said men in Kigali are sexually active with a group of "free women" who have many sexual partners, several years before they take a wife. The men are thus exposed to the virus before marriage.

"Most infected women (in Rwanda) are themselves monogamous and at risk of infection as a result of the sexual behaviours of their steady male partners... a similar pattern may evolve in the United States where an increasing number of women without known risk factors may acquire the infection from high-risk partners," the study said.

U.S. licenses test kit to detect AIDS antibodies

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government has licensed the first combination test kit that detects antibodies to both types of virus that cause AIDS, including the one found mostly in Europe and Africa.

The new test will make it easier and less expensive for blood banks and laboratories to test for both viruses, officials said.

The test can detect antibodies for the Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 1, or HIV-1 and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 2, which is extremely rare in the United States but more prevalent in Europe and Africa.

Only 27 cases of AIDS caused by HIV-2 have been reported in the United States, the first in 1987, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta.

The antibody test for HIV-1 was licensed in 1985,

and all of the nation's blood establishments are required to use it to screen donated blood.

The HIV-2 test was licensed in April 1990, but the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not required blood banks to use it because of the small risk it poses to the blood supply.

FDA Commissioner David Kessler said only a few blood banks are using the HIV-2 test because of "the additional procedural and resource burdens it would place on them and the current absence of significant risk."

"A combination test will overcome many of the procedural problems, and may encourage more widespread testing for this virus," he said.

The test kit will be manufactured by Genetic Systems Corp. of Redmond, Washington.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

HAUTE CUISINE

By L. Miller

1. Splendor
2. Proper
3. Dazzler
4. Conclude
5. Roster duty
6. Nonfictional
7. Grows in
8. Ruler royalty
9. Kind of star
10. Garb for 25A
11. City on the Po
12. Venus deity
13. Washington victory site
14. H.G. Wells opus
15. Terms of office
16. Tazman portrayer
17. Ron
18. Reusable
19. Roundtable role

20. Two cups
21. Evidence
22. Reluctant
23. Fertilizer e.g.
24. Promoted's pleasure
25. Goblet
26. Solder
27. Warsaw Pact counterpart
28. Composition
29. A Flynn
30. Seal
31. Transmitted
32. Tear shedder
33. Mountain system
34. Legal phrase
35. Kiosk kiosk
36. Hitchcock flick
37. Up-down
38. Up-down
39. Up-down

Diagramless

21 X 21, By James Barrick

ACROSS
1 Bar bill
2 Indictment
3 Carrel zone
4 Location
5 Explosive sound
6 Edible fish
7 Term
8 Kind of letter
9 Rickshaw
10 Relating to heat

DOWN
1 Old garment
2 Aspiring
3 Seating for sports
4 Sharp beaver
5 Westchester
6 Treaty
7 Keg
8 Something for a tower
9 Certain coins

30 Postpone
31 Musical chain
32 Padded
33 Primitive means
34 Of assistance
35 Banquet
36 Judicial
37 Proceedings
38 Past hits
39 Crosby-Hope title
40 Dances or Oliver
41 Endures
42 Bern's upstairway
43 Waste maker
44 Jester and Dreyer
45 Lawyer; abbot
46 Smuggler
47 Plywood layer
48 Cook's device
49 Horse

30 Horse seaport
31 US president
32 River transports
33 Get home
34 Lashed
35 Feeds the lotus
36 Tokyo once
37 "Get — to a
38 nursery
39 Timothy or Abby
40 Took a quick
41 Look
42 Saw
43 Recaps
44 OPEC member
45 Cynical
46 Cynical
47 Attendance
48 — new sale
49 Miss van — Rolo
50 Scattered
51 Hearty sandwich
52 At a distance

30 Gift for a dad
31 Abundant
32 Give
33 Instruction
34 Brits
35 Carrel zone
36 Edible fish
37 Term
38 Kind of letter
39 Rickshaw
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39 Learning

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'Israel should end settlement'

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinian side to handle the problem with the Israelis, while the Jordanian side would deal with the Jordanian-Israeli aspect," he noted.

Jordan believes that a peaceful solution to the Middle East problem should be based on justice and involve all parties involved in the conflict, he said.

The Arab side in general, and the Palestinian side in particular, as expressed in the recent resolutions of the Palestine National Council (PNC) — has agreed to give peace in the region a chance by keeping wide open the window of hope now available to it and even to give the new world-order room for anticipation from which to promptly proceed to achieve a comprehensive peace," he said.

However, we and the world are waiting to see whether the present leaders of Israel are equally ready to arrive at the desired peace solution, or whether they prefer to remain prisoners of their own intransigence, thus kill the chance to attain peace for their people and for the region as a whole," the minister told the General Assembly.

Dr. Ensour also referred to the Gulf crisis and recalled that Jordan had firmly stated its position to the world body in a speech by its then foreign minister during the 1990 session of the General Assembly. "Jordan, being a civilized state which respects its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, cannot condone resort to force in settling disputes between states, or accept the occupation of the territory of others; nor can it support or recognize any demographic or political changes resulting from a war in our region or anywhere in the world," Dr. Ensour quoted from the speech. "Accordingly, Jordan will not recognize the decision to annex Kuwait and calls for restoring legitimacy to this Arab country."

The Jordanian approach to the Gulf crisis was based on this position, and the kingdom also honoured the international sanc-

tions imposed on Iraq despite the economic hardships it had to suffer from the adherence to the embargo, he noted.

Jordan is suffering immensely from the consequences of the international embargo and additionally the Kingdom is burdened with the return of hundreds of thousands of expatriates from Kuwait, he said. "My country is seeking the help of the competent international bodies in providing it with the necessary aid for absorbing those returnees who had lost their livelihood and income and returned empty-handed, as well as for enabling them to regain the stability of their lives and find new means of livelihood," he said.

Expressing distress over the suffering of the Iraqi people and referring to the threat of famine as reported by U.N. and international bodies, Dr. Ensour called for "speedy action in taking the necessary measures to lift the economic blockade against the Iraqi people...." He also called for the preservation of the unity and territorial integrity of Iraq.

Dr. Ensour said Jordan was happy that the civil strife in Lebanon had come to an end and called for the implementation of U.N. Resolution 425, which demands the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory.

The foreign minister also referred to Jordan's concerns over the environmental damage caused by the Gulf war and said the Kingdom was looking forward to attending the first international conference on the environment and development to be held under U.N. auspices in Brazil in 1992.

He welcomed the recent American move to dramatically scale down the global arms race. He said Jordan was ready to attend any conference aimed at eliminating weapons of mass destruction.

Dr. Ensour indirectly referred to Jordan's foreign debt burden and called for "new ground rules for providing loans to developing states by making them synchronous with the progress achieved in development by the states receiving such loans and assistance."

PNC left room for backtracking

(Continued from page 1)

But even this absolute minimum is "debatable" because there are different interpretations of the practical definition of "adequate or proper Palestinian representation."

There are PLO officials who argue in private for giving a mandate for the Palestinians in occupied territories to negotiate on their own. Although this view is endorsed by few important PLO members, it has no real support within the organisation.

The other school of thinking insists that all the three issues concerning Israeli settlements, representation, and the status of Jerusalem be solved prior to the conference so that the talks will go straight into the heart of the main issue — that of Israeli occupation and Palestinian rights in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

These three main questions will be addressed by Palestinian leaders Faisal Husseini and Dr. Hanan Ashrawi at their next meeting with U.S.

Secretary of State James Baker. "We are awaiting the American administration's response to these three important questions," PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo told reporters immediately after the conclusion of the PNC.

The PLO's next step will heavily hinge on the awaited American clarifications. But recent American statements — to the effect that the PLO has not yet met the American conditions set for the resumption of the American dialogue with the organisation — indicated the U.S. might throw the ball back into the Palestinian court with more conditions.

Palestinian officials fear that the main condition that the Americans are seeking, and which the PNC has definitely not satisfied, is for the organisation to be practically relinquish its responsibility of the occupied territories.

The question of which party will declare the names was not a major source of contention among Palestinians at the PNC or even prior to the convening of the session.

Race for Japan's prime minister is on

By Yuri Kageyama
The Associated Press

TOKYO — The race is on for Japan's prime minister. Or at least as "on" as a race can get when it involves a coterie of politicians meeting behind closed doors to divvy up the spoils of power. They give little regard to policy and only indirect consideration of public opinion.

About 500 party representatives — primarily parliament members — are to vote Oct. 27 for the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) presidency. The party president also holds the post of prime minister because the party controls parliament's lower house. A consensus choice could be named sooner if party leaders cut a deal in back-room negotiations.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu is expected to bid for reelection when his two-year term as president of the governing LDP expires next month. Challenging him are three senior politicians, each a leader of a "habatsu" — party factions that are the modern equivalent of feudal fiefdoms.

Mr. Kaifu is very well liked. He remains extremely popular among the public, which will be a plus in next summer's parliamentary elections, and is perceived as being easily manipulated by party bosses. But his opponents say he is inexperienced and indecisive.

Mr. Kaifu, 60, is a former education minister who was plucked from relative obscurity two years ago when all the likely candidates for prime minister were tainted by the recruit influence-peddling scandal.

Some leading politicians bought unlisted shares in a real-estate subsidiary of a job-information company called recruit that shot up in value once they were listed. Two politicians are now facing bribery charges in court. Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita was not charged but resigned in 1989 because of the scandal.

Mr. Kaifu's main qualification was his clean image. But since 1989, the scandal-plagued leaders have won reelection to parliament, victories widely viewed as signs they have earned the right to hold national office again.

Mr. Kaifu's three challengers are Hiroshi Mitsuoka, Kiichi Miyazawa and Michio Watanabe.

Each heads a habatsu, the key unit of political power in Japan. The groups do not promote particular policies but exist solely to raise campaign funds and to promote their parliamentary members to national office. The leaders of the most powerful factions typically rotate as prime minister.

Mr. Kaifu belongs to the tiniest of the five factions. But he has been backed by the largest group,



Toshiki Kaifu

which is led by former Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru and Takeshita.

Political observer Masaya Ito says Kaifu is being kept in office until Mr. Takeshita can shake off the scandal and return as prime minister after the 1992 parliamentary elections.

For the time being, Mr. Takeshita remains under a cloud. He has shouldered more blame than other politicians because he was prime minister at the time of the recruit scandal.

Mr. Kanemaru and Mr. Takeshita are clearly the king-makers, and Japanese newspaper-

ers have been paying close attention to their ambiguous statements over the past weeks about the race.

Questions of policy have been completely overshadowed by wheeling and dealing within the party, which has governed since 1955 and is under no immediate challenge from a weak, fragmented opposition.

The centerpiece of the campaign so far has been Kaifu-bashing by challengers who say his term has been marked by indecisiveness. They cite Japan's muddled response to the Gulf crisis and to the failed Soviet coup.

The challengers claim that because they have personal power bases within the party and more experience in government, they would be able to react faster and with more authority to such crises.

Since the Liberal Democrats are a conservative party of the status quo, there has been little indication any candidate would fundamentally change foreign or domestic policy. Policy development often is left in the hands of

Japan's entrenched bureaucrats.

Mr. Mitsuoka, 64, has headed the ministries of foreign affairs, trade and transport. He took over the second largest faction from Shintaro Abe, who had been promised the prime minister's seat by Mr. Takeshita but died earlier this year.

But some of Mitsuoka's faction members, frustrated because they want to take a stronger stand against Mr. Takeshita, reportedly may support Shintaro Ishihara. Mr. Ishihara authored the controversial book, "The Japan That Can Say No," which is about standing up to Washington.

Mr. Miyazawa, 71, has been the most aggressive candidate, declaring his intention to pursue his "last chance" to be prime minister several weeks before the Oct. 4 conclusion of the parliamentary session, considered a breach of political protocol.

He has headed the ministries of foreign affairs, finance and trade. Although analysts say Mr. Miyazawa, who is fluent in English, can win the support of business leaders and intellectuals with his expertise in international affairs, his chances are con-

sidered slim because many within the party view him as a mob.

Mr. Watanabe, 68, who has headed the ministries of finance, trade and agriculture, and is a protégé of former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone. He is generally seen as the weakest candidate.

His bluntness has caused him trouble. He became the target of harsh U.S. criticism for his 1988 remark implying that American blacks have no qualms about going bankrupt and walking away from their debts. He later apologized.

Although those three challengers together control enough votes to choose the new party president, analysts say such an alliance is extremely unlikely. What each contender really wants, some critics believe, is Mr. Takeshita's blessing to win key cabinet post or to become prime minister next term around.

A candidate has yet to emerge from the Takeshita faction. A finance industry scandal and illness have sidelined Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and former party Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa.

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Ordinary Issue No.: 18

Drawing of: Oct. 2, 1991

Winning Tickets

Holder of ticket No. 45203 Wins JD 25,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 1,000 each wins JD 100
Holder of ticket No. 19602 Wins JD 6,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 600 each wins JD 60
Holder of ticket No. 32644 Wins JD 3,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 300 each wins JD 30
Holder of ticket No. 76059 Wins JD 2,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 250 each wins JD 25
Holder of ticket No. 18725 Wins JD 1,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 150 each wins JD 15
Holder of ticket No. 14458 Wins JD 1,200	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 100 each wins JD 10
Holder of ticket No. 25735 Wins JD 1,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 80 each wins JD 8
Holder of ticket No. 16821 Wins JD 600	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 70 each wins JD 7

Ticket numbers	61585	52598	34376	74193	win JD 200 each
Ticket numbers	61324	46287	65759		win JD 100 each

TICKETS ENDING WITH

3298	8042	1035	Win JD 20 each	0674	7086	0120	Win JD 10 each
7441	8840			1813	7776		
629	901	944	494	197			Win JD 5 each
8000 tickets ending with Zero (0) Win JD 5 each							

COVER PRIZES FOR THE LOTTERY SELLERS

40	covers, attached to the stub of 10 ending in 148	254	500	759	701	Win JD 10
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Winners of the grand prizes in the ordinary issue number 17 of Sep. 17, 1991

Ibrahim Abu Jaouda Al Rajab-Electronics Half First JD 12,500	Fayez Al-Jarrah Al Rajab-Electronics Half First JD 12,500	Asad Yassin Amman Half Second JD 6,000	Osman Hammad Al Rajab-Electronics Half Third JD 3,000	Fahed Bani Younes Al Rajab-Electronics Half Third JD 3,000	Isam Al-Jarrah Amman-Water Full First from date of issue 1991	Hassan Fakhri Al Rajab-Electronics Full First from date of issue 1991

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Al Ahli moves towards under-19 basketball title

By Aileen Bannayan

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Challenge and determination are two words that sum up Tuesday's matches of the under-19 basketball competition.

Al Jazireh succumbed to Al Orthodoxy's determination in eliminating all obstacles on their way to snatch the title away from Al Ahli.

In the other match Al Watani gave title-holders Al Ahli a hard time before Al Ahli won with a score of 111-76.

Al Orthodoxy's better offensive rebound and their ability to adapt to many styles of play made a big difference.

"Our players had many fouls and did not play their usual game except for Munzer Al Muheisen who scored 21 points," Al Jazireh's coach Fadi Al Sabbah told the Jordan Times.

led by Ziyad Al Nabulsi, Mudar Barakat and Muntaser

Abu Tayyeb, Al Orthodoxy finished the first half at 43-30 and easily won the match with a score of 90-62.

In the other match, Al Watani, playing in a well coordinated manner, excelled in the first half catching up with Al Ahli (who had led 36-19) at 40-40. Al Ahli however managed to finish the first half with a score of 49-42.

Al Ahli took advantage of Al Watani's many personal fouls and led by Thamer Al Abuini and Mohammad Al Shamali won the game with a score at 111-76.

"We were quite prepared for the match and our team gave it everything they had" said Al Watani's coach Ghaith Al Najjar.

Like many other teams, Al Watani is complaining about not playing on neutral courts, while Al Ahli and Al Orthodoxy play at their own courts.

"We have written to the Jordanian Basketball Federation (JBF) about this and we hope the JBF

will respond favourably to this fair objection; otherwise we will decline to play," Najjar told the Jordan Times.

On Thursday, Al Jazireh will play Al Watani in a game that is crucial to both teams.

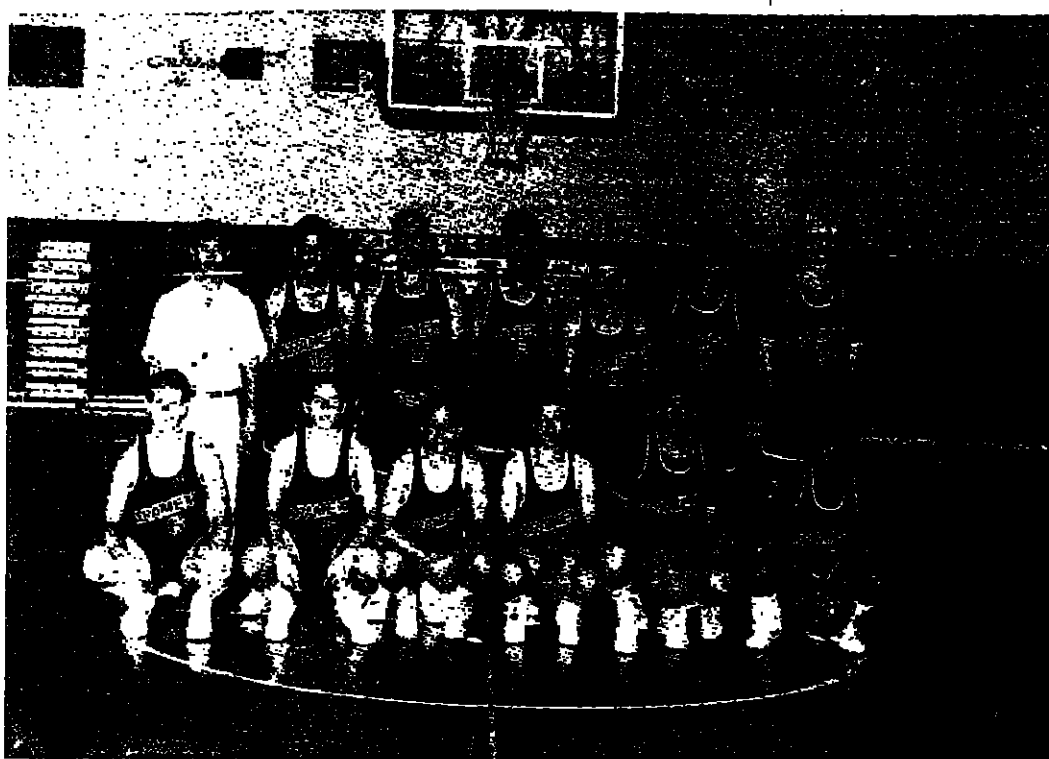
In the first stage of the under-19 competition Al Jazireh beat Al Watani 72-68 and they hope to repeat the victory again. Al Watani, on the other hand, are ready and hope to do their best to frustrate Al Jazireh's plans.

In the other match, all-time rivals Al Orthodoxy and Al Ahli will meet in a highly interesting match-up. Al Orthodoxy had won their first stage match 69-63.

JBF gets new board

The Minister of Youth Dr. Saleh Al-Sheikh Tuesday announced the formation of a new basketball federation board headed by Dr. Mubiyedeen Touq.

Members of the new board are



Al Jazireh under-19 team

Abdallah Al Kiswani, Dr. Fa'eq Abu Haimneh, Yousef Ahmad, Ali Al Bilbeisi, Issa Ammani, Eid

Al Mulqi, Qasem Al Abed, as well as the representatives of Ahli, Orthodoxy and Karak clubs.

His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Ibn Mohammad is the honorary president of the (JBF).

All-Africa Games close peacefully

CAIRO (R) — Egypt bade farewell to thousands of African athletes at the end of the fifth All Africa Games Tuesday and again expressed hopes to stage the Olympics.

"See you at the Olympics," read a huge banner as the continental games flag was handed over to officials from Zimbabwe, host for the next Africa games in 1995.

"Thank God the games were an honour for all of us, and millions of witnesses all over the world saw that Africa has moulded them into a wonderful sports act... that enables it to organise an Olympic Games," said Abdul Meneim Emara, head of the organising committee.

Mr. Emara was quoted in the local press earlier this week as saying the lack of an Olympic Games in Africa was "a black point" for the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

He also criticised the IOC for not helping poor countries develop their sports capabilities.

Egypt's Olympic aspirations were dealt a serious blow at the opening ceremony when dozens of guests failed to make it to the Cairo International Stadium because of a crush at the main gate.

The closing ceremony, witnessed by around 70,000 spectators, passed peacefully after Egypt committed thousands of security forces and riot police to avoid a repetition of the Sept. 20 embarrasment.

Abdullah Mbombo Njaya, vice-president of the Supreme Council of Sports in Africa said the participation of about 4,000 athletes from 46 countries was proof of its success.

Egypt, winners of most gold medals at the last games, in Nairobi in 1987, remained top of the medal tally with 90 gold, 53 silver and 52 bronze — more than double those of second-placed Nigeria.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Lebanese weightlifter hurt

DONAUESCHINGEN, Germany (R) — A competitor at the World Weightlifting Championships was injured when the 172.5 kgs weight he was lifting struck him on the neck. Lebanese Jamal Traboussi was taken to hospital with suspected neck and back injuries after he slipped from his hands during the middleweight event. Traboussi was unable to move his legs immediately after the accident.

Nannini back on track

RAVENNA, Italy (R) — Italian Alessandro Nannini drove a racing car again Tuesday, a year after his forearm was torn back on following a helicopter crash, and plans to return to Formula One next March. Nannini was in action at Mugello, the first time he has been on a track since his accident last October. The former Benetton driver severed a forearm when his brand-new helicopter hit the ground near his parents' villa outside Siena in Tuscany. He has said he was not at the controls. "I'll go back to Formula One in March, I'm 99 per cent sure of it," Nannini told the Italian weekly Epoca in an interview to be published Thursday. Nannini, a student pilot, was thrown from his seat when the helicopter came down. His forearm was found several metres away. Surgeons stitched it back on during a nine-hour operation.

Pazienza wins WBA crown

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island (R) — Vinny Pazienza won his second world title by stopping World Boxing Association (WBA) junior middleweight champion Gilbert Dela Cruz of France at two minutes and 10 seconds of 12th round. Pazienza, fighting in front of 4,600 home-town fans, hurt Dela Cruz in the 12th round with a left hook and the Frenchman turned his back on Pazienza and walked toward the other side of the ring. Pazienza rushed after Dela Cruz and hit him with a left to the face as he was walking away. Dela Cruz slipped over the ropes, clearly not wanting to fight anymore. After questioning Dela Cruz, referee Luis Rivera stopped the fight. Pazienza was ahead on two of the three judges' scorecards and even on the third when the 154-pound (69.8 kg) fight was stopped. The fight was exciting and close until the ninth round when Pazienza turned the tide with a brutal attack, staggering Dela Cruz with a right hand followed by two solid left hooks.

Foreman settles suit against Holyfield

HOUSTON (AP) — Heavyweight boxer George Foreman has settled a lawsuit he filed against champion Evander Holyfield and Holyfield's promoter. Terms of the settlement agreement reached Tuesday were not released, the Houston Chronicle reported Wednesday. The \$100 million suit, filed in July in Houston, stemmed from Foreman's contention that Holyfield, promoted Dan Duva and trainer Shelly Finkel breached a contract worth more than \$20 million for Foreman to fight Holyfield. Foreman claimed a July 1 letter describing conditions of a rematch between him and Holyfield was a legal agreement that led him to drop negotiations for a \$20 million fight against Mike Tyson. Holyfield backed out of the match with Foreman barely 24 hours after Duva and Foreman's promoter agreed to the terms. Holyfield soon announced he would fight Tyson in Las Vegas for \$30 million.

Sampras, Wheaton advance in Sydney

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — American young guns Pete Sampras and David Wheaton took contrasting routes Wednesday in advancing to the third round of the Australian Indoor Tennis Championships.

Former U.S. Open champion Sampras, the third seed, had to struggle after a sluggish start before beating compatriot Todd Nelson 4-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Fifth-seeded Wheaton took only 59 minutes to defeat Australian Neil Borwick 6-2, 6-3 in his second-round match.

South African Wayne Ferreira, seeded 16th, also advanced to the last 16 with a 6-4, 7-5 win over Dimitri Panikoff of the Soviet Union, but two other seeded players were eliminated.

Gianluca Pozzi of Italy continued the best run of his career with a 6-1, 6-4 victory over 10th-seeded Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union.

Australia's Mark Woodforde ousted friend and compatriot Wally Masur 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (7-5), recovering to win the tiebreaker after squandering a 4-0 lead in the decisive set. Masur was the 15th seed.

Sampras was sluggish early against power-sever Nelson, but gradually established control against a player ranked No. 325 in the world.

Goran Ivanisevic breezed through his second round match Tuesday and then dedicated his victory to Croatian separatists in his homeland.

The lanky 20-year-old left-hander said after his 6-4, 6-3 triumph over Australian Simon Youl that he no longer wished to be regarded as Yugoslav and designated himself as a representative of the breakaway republic.

Eddery opts for Toulon in horse racing showpiece

LONDON (R) — British champion jockey Pat Eddery, who has won the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe four times in the last 11 years, is to partner English St Leger winner Toulon in Sunday's European horse racing showpiece.

Eddery opted for the French-trained colt after owner Prince Khalid Abdullah decided to run both Toulon and Quest For Fame, who will be ridden by Walter Swinburn.

The Saudi prince, who won the Arc in 1985 with Rainbow Quest and again in 1986 with Dancing Brave, is running both horses Sunday because the ground in Paris is likely to be soft.

His racing manager Grant Pritchard-Gordon said Tuesday: "Both worked very well and pleased their trainers. The soft ground will suit them."

Quest For Fame won the English derby in 1990 but has yet to regain all his old sparkle. Toulon

started favourite for the Epsom Derby in June, only to flop, but has done well since.

This year's English and Irish Derby winner Generous, rated widely as one of the best colts in many years, is the 5-4 favourite.

Generous will fly out on the morning of the race to be joined in the big race line-up by stable companion Surge, an 8-1 chance who finished third in last year's French Derby winner Suave Dancer is the 3-1 second favourite following victory in the Irish Champion Stakes and connections hope he can turn the tables on Generous who beat him in the Irish Derby.

A total of 25 horses are still engaged in the Arc, including nine from Britain and one from Ireland.

Latest odds: 5-4 Generous, 3-1 Suave Dancer, 8-1 Surge, 12-1 Pistol Blen and Toulon, 20-1 Quest For Fame, 25-1 and upward others.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Saturn goes direct today allowing you to be very logical in your reasoning and to join with others in conversations of a mental and intellectual nature that will produce very favourable results.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) The daytime finds you eager for fun but with some very demanding obligations that could cause you to miss out on tonight's fun.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You now have some pretty determined opposition from home with a partner who does not budge an inch but tonight they soften and are amenable.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You find yourself in a position where you must be very close to your money and being with close companions and studying ways to recover your mind in wise right thinking is great.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Whatever you have in mind that does necessitate a new and fresh approach at pleasing others and forgetting money worries is good now.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) You find your own family is not too pleased with you during the daytime but your ideas for your present progress is good so follow them through.

VIRGO (August 22 to September 22) This is your time to make sure you are the one who does facts and be sure they conform with the truth during the daytime, then tonight romance can be pleasant.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You now have a considerable amount of pressure of a financial nature but this day is your time to be with friends which can bring you joy.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Steer clear of that influential person you're like to lambast during the day and do whatever duty you have with care and tonight you reap rewards of success.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Make a point to do nothing that can limit or restrict your day and do whatever duty you have with care and tonight you reap rewards of success.

CAPIECORN (December 22 to January 20) Now you feel you can depend on a friend rather than some impersonal expert and you are so right but tonight all improves so everyone aids you.

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19) This is your time to make sure you are the one who does facts and be sure they conform with the truth during the daytime, then tonight romance can be pleasant.

PISCES (February 20 to March 20) This is the moment to show you do value the good will and active assistance of fellow associates you should do something to let them know of your loyalty to them.

Today's child: If your child were born today she or he exudes nervous energy and displays such an interest in everything that is going on around them that unless they are restrained and guided in some way they will wind up nervous wrecks. Adapting quickly to any emergency this child proves to be a great asset in trying times.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
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GO AFTER THE RIGHT SUIT

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH			
♠ 6			
♥ J			
♦ K Q 10 6 3			
♣ K Q J 9 8			
WEST			
♠ J 9 7 3			
♥ K 9 7 5 3			
♦ 9			
♣ 6 4 2			
SOUTH			
♠ K 10 4 2			
♥ A Q 10			
♦ 7 5 4 2			
♣ A 10			

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠. Don't let the fact that you have a seemingly safe contract kill you into a false sense of security. Even a 99 per cent line will fail one time in a 100, so always check to see if there isn't a better way to tackle the hand.

We like South's bidding. With a potential ruffing value in clubs, South first checked for a possible 4-4 spade fit rather than leap to two no trump. It did no harm to wait until the second round to show the strength of the hand.

West led a heart, and declarer saw that if either the king of hearts or

ace or jack of diamonds was well located, the contract was a shoo-in. So without further ado, declarer overtook dummy's jack of hearts with the queen and led a diamond to the king, losing to the ace. On the heart return declarer finessed the ten, losing to the king, and West removed South's last heart stopper. When West showed out on the second diamond trick, declarer could take no more than eight tricks.

Declarer certainly ran into a lot of bad luck, but he could have done better. Overlooked in the initial planning was the combined spade holding, which was certain to yield one trick. By utilizing that hidden asset, the contract would have been converted from a possibility to a sure bet.

Declarer should have won the first trick in dummy and led the low spade toward the closed hand. If the ace is in the East hand, it must be withheld, otherwise declarer has nine tricks. But with a spade trick in the bank, declarer can afford to go after a diamond as the fulfilling trick.

Should the king of spades lose to the ace in the West hand, West has no suit to attack profitably. The best the defenders will be able to do is take three tricks in spades and the ace of diamonds, and the contract is home.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You will find it advisable to check carefully all of the details and specifics of the plan of action you have been extending with practical awareness and good common sense.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Both friends and attachment are eager to go along with the plans you have been making that bring a chance to express creative ideas and for social delights.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You now find that both influential personalities as well as family members are eager to help you find place in sun so be receptive.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Look for some better way to use this day that will help you to better understand your own emotions and to have fun at hobbies that appeal to you.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Money matters both those of a personal as well as of a cooperative nature bring you the outlets for which you have been searching for.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) Now you can get together with those partners who mean a great deal to you so explain to them your standpoints and desires and you will be able to forge ahead.

VIRGO (August 22 to September 22) Look for those clever behind the scenes suggestions from an expert that are just what you need in order to make you get along much better.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) This is the time to make sure that you do show that generous friend that your

sometimes odd-acting ally is in fact a talented individual.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You are able to find out exactly where you stand with most everyone both family and outsiders, if you do not force issues but are quietly watchful.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) This is your moment to find a higher sort of peace and under which to operate and since this is a good day it should be much easier.

CAPIECORN (December 22 to January 20) Whatever you would like to do that does necessitate getting your financial affairs more up to date in condition is vitally important.

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19) You certainly have the chance now to get a more formal and vain partner than yourself to go along with that plan that requires another person.

PISCES (February 20 to March 20) Whatever secret longings you have it is necessary that you approach them from an entirely different angle if they are to work out satisfactorily.

Today's child: If your child were born today she or he dwells over any course of action with great deliberation and takes forever to reach a decision. Many potential opportunities slip through their fingers and cause a great deal of concern with others who are somehow involved in these decisions.

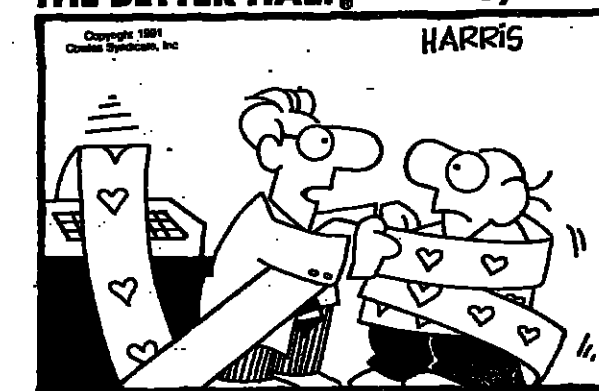
"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

★ Exclusive Jewellery in 18 KT. gold with gems.

World Resources Design & Co. Inc. Amman- Rio De Janeiro
Jewellers - Gen. Amman- Amra Hotel- 6th circle.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Your wife is trying to fax you a hug. I'm supposed to wrap it around you!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HELEC

MENOG

SOWDAH

ATTREY

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumble: NICE EXERT INDIGT EXPOSE

Answer: That "wise guy" is always willing to give you the benefit of his life—INEXPERIENCE.

(Answers Monday)

THE MAIN COURSE AT A LIGHT-HEARTED GET-TOGETHER.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Peanuts



Financial Markets

in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 1/10/1991	Tel Aviv Close Date 2/10/1991
Sterling Pound	1.7462	1.7493
Deutsche Mark	1.6683	1.6661
Swiss Franc	1.4556	1.4542
French Franc	5.6610	5.6760
Japanese Yen	133.48	133.11
European Currency Unit	1.2275	1.2287

USD Per STG
European Opening of 5:00 a.m. GMT

European Currency Unit

Currency	1 MTB	3 MTBS	6 MTBS	12 MTBS
U.S. Dollar	5.31	5.50	5.50	5.62
Sterling Pound	10.43	10.18	10.06	9.93
Deutsche Mark	9.00	9.25	9.31	9.31
Swiss Franc	8.00	8.12	7.93	7.87
French Franc	9.28	9.37	9.43	9.43
Japanese Yen	6.75	6.46	6.21	5.96
European Currency Unit	9.93	9.93	9.93	9.87

Interest rate for deposits exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	353.35	6.85	Silver	4.76	.095

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.686	.688
Sterling Pound	1.7990	1.2050
Deutsche Mark	.4112	.4135
Swiss Franc	.4713	.4737
French Franc	.1207	.1213
Japanese Yen	.5148	.5174
Dutch Guilder	.3648	.3666
Swedish Krona	.1127	.1133
Italian Lira	.0550	.0553
Belgian Franc	.01996	.02006

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7900	1.8000
Lebanese Lira	.07695	.07710
Saudi Riyal	.1826	.1836
Kuwaiti Dinar	.1859	.1867
Qatari Riyal	.2000	.2100
Egyptian Pound	1.7650	1.7900
Omani Riyal	.1859	.1867
UAE Dirham	.3650	.3710
Greek Drachma	1.4580	1.4680
Cypriot Pound		

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	30/9/1991 Close	1/10/1991 Close
All-Share	122.15	121.98
Banking Sector	103.19	102.98
Insurance Sector	122.34	122.49
Industry Sector	151.25	151.16
Services Sector	128.75	128.64

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.7520/30	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1309/14	Canadian dollar
	1.6622/29	Deutschemarks
	1.8725/35	Dutch guilders
	1.4527/34	Swiss francs
	34.24/28	Belgian francs
	5.6750/6800	French francs
	1244/1245	Italian lire
	132.60/70	Japanese yen
	6.0670/0720	Swedish crowns
	6.5100/50	Norwegian crowns
	6.4200/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	354.50/355.00	U.S. dollars

Bush speeds farm credits to Soviets

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. President George Bush Tuesday made \$585 million in agricultural credit guarantees immediately available to the Soviet Union so it will help "during the hard winter facing the Soviet people."

The administration also said it would guarantee 100 per cent of the principal on the loans in order to make them more attractive to bankers, who have been reluctant to extend financing to the cash-strapped Soviet Union.

Mr. Bush, in a statement, said he was speeding the credits "to insure that the U.S. does everything possible to help with the food situation."

"This action will put more American grain and other food into the pipeline now so that it will arrive at its destination in time to be of assistance during the hard winter facing the Soviet people," he added.

The Agriculture Department said \$104 million of the guarantees would be used to purchase feed grains and \$23 million to buy protein meal. The rest remains unallocated.

The \$585 million in credits are the final instalment in a \$1.5 billion package of loan guarantees offered to Moscow by President Bush last summer.

The administration had been scheduled to release \$185 million in aid on Oct. 1, and another \$400 million in February, but moved up the later allocation to help the

Soviet Union. Soviet officials have had difficulty securing financing under the guarantees, due to reluctance of U.S. banks to offer loans to cash-strapped Moscow.

To ease agricultural sales, the Agriculture Department announced last month that it would cover 100 per cent of the principal and a higher interest rate on \$200 million in guarantees that were outstanding at that time.

Normally, the loan guarantee programme covers 98 per cent of principal and an interest rate of up to 4.5 per cent. After the more generous terms were announced the Soviet Union had no trouble getting loans and bought wheat, corn and soybean products.

Meanwhile, President Mikhail Gorbachev Tuesday cut by nearly a third his request for emergency food aid this coming winter, but a European Community official said Moscow might need further Western credit to prop up its ailing economy.

EC commissioner for economic affairs, Henning Christophersen, said Mr. Gorbachev had reduced to \$10.2 billion a request for grants, credits and credit guarantees to buy food for a poor grain harvest.

"They are now down to \$10.2 billion, instead of \$14.7 billion," Mr. Christophersen said after meeting Mr. Gorbachev during a two-day visit to Moscow.

Brazil braces for more bad news after shock devaluation of cruzeiro

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (R) — Brazilians woke up 15 per cent poorer Tuesday after the biggest one-day drop in their currency's value in eight years, but economists predicted that worse was still to come.

Central bank officials said they had encouraged the unofficial devaluation in the cruzeiro to take pressure off Brazil's dwindling foreign reserves, but business leaders feared the move would fuel already high inflation.

Businessmen, currency dealers and the general public were taken by surprise Monday when the government abandoned an 18-month-old policy of gradual small daily devaluations and let the dollar jump from 464 cruzeiros to 530 cruzeiros in a couple of hours.

"This had to happen because the dollar was very low. But I don't know what's going to happen to inflation," said Sao Paulo business leader Mario Amato.

Retail prices jumped 16.1 per cent in September, according to the Rio-based Getulio Vargas Foundation, and economists were already predicting 18 per cent inflation for October even before Monday's sudden devaluation.

Because Brazil is a relatively closed economy — imports equal about 10 per cent of gross domestic product — economists predicted the direct effect of the devaluation would be small, perhaps an extra 1.5 percentage points in October.

But in a nervous society where inflation has been elevated into a national culture, the psychological effect of the cruzeiro's tumble was much greater.

Economist Luiz Carlos Mendonca de Barros said the episode marked the "beginning of the end" for the country's embattled economy minister, Marcilio Marques Moreira.

Mr. Moreira, who took office in May, is widely expected to be out of his job by the end of the year unless inflation suddenly drops. His quiet, low-key style was initially praised by businessmen weary of his combative predecessor, Zelia Cardoso de Melo, but they now complain it seems increasingly out of step with the country's dire economic plight.

Brazil's inflation, now running at 600 per cent annually, is the worst of any major world economy.

Egypt steams ahead on money reforms, stalls on public sector

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has pushed ahead on financial and monetary reforms but stalled on equally vital plans to overhaul its huge and ailing public sector economy. The government said a unified currency exchange rate started Tuesday — four months ahead of schedule.

But politics and layers of bureaucracy have kept glued to the drawing board plans to streamline nearly 300 state-owned firms as part of a grooming process for privatisation.

Businessmen and diplomats say Egypt needs to convince its international backers and a visiting team from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that an 18-month reform plan agreed in May is running to schedule.

Agreement by the Paris Club group of creditors to forgive more than \$10 billion of debt hinges on the IMF saying the Egypt has

lived up to its side of the bargain.

An IMF official said a team was in Cairo to monitor progress and, if necessary, give early warning signs before a more conclusive review in December.

"It's clear progress has been quicker in some areas than others," the official said.

Egypt is trying to balance scant resources with spiralling social and economic needs.

So far, financial and monetary reforms designed to end decades of bureaucracy and central planning have gone well. But diplomats and local economists say the real test — public sector reform — is still to come.

The government passed the public sector reform law in May and said it would publish the details in mid-September. Nothing has happened yet. Officials say the delay is purely administrative.

"This is Egypt," said one Egyptian involved in restructuring negotiations. "Things take time here because they have to go through several layers of authority. There's no need to worry."

But businessmen and diplomats say the delay could be a result of the bureaucracy and red tape the bill is meant to stop and a sign that for all the talk, little has really changed.

"We can't understand the delay," said a Western economist based in Cairo. "It's too early to draw any conclusions but let's just say there's cause for legitimate concern."

Rumours are rife of cabinet arguments between "reformists" and "gradualists". One Western economist said, "We'll see how committed they are when and if heads begin to roll at every level, right up to the cabinet."

The government has publicly accepted the need for change but many senior politicians, reared under former president Gamal Abdul Nasser's system of paternal state intervention, have little experience of free market conditions.

Egypt's sluggish state-run sector officially accounts for about two-thirds of all economic activity in the country.

By contrast, the government has launched into financial reforms, freeing interest rates, allowing private moneychangers to start up, and ending the series of different official exchange rates used for trading.

Sources close to negotiations with the IMF and World Bank say financial sector reforms have gone well. But some Egyptian bankers say interest rates are still artificially low.

Soviet money issued in August almost equals amount for whole of 1990

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Union issued almost as much money in August this year as it did in the whole of 1990 in a desperate attempt to meet soaring salaries, a top state bank official said in an interview published Tuesday.

Arnold Boylukov, deputy chairman of state bank Gosbank's ruling board, told the Trud newspaper that in the first eight months of the year the bank had issued almost 50 per cent more money than had been planned for the whole of 1991.

"The amount of money issued in just one month — August — was almost equal to the entire amount issued last year," he said. Soviet money supply grew by about 25 billion rubles in 1990.

At the commercial rate, used for most business transactions, there are 1.74 roubles to the dollar.

Mr. Boylukov said that by the end of August Gosbank had issued 57.3 billion rubles as opposed to the 40 billion planned for the entire year. He forecast that an extra 12 to 13 billion roubles would be issued in September.

Economists estimate inflation is running at two to three per cent a week and say hyperinflation is inevitable unless the state stops printing new money.

But Mr. Boylukov said there was no alternative if rapidly rising salaries were to be covered.

"The income of the population is growing rapidly while production and services are falling. Salaries and bonuses have lost

their link to labour productivity," he said.

Between January and August national income, a rough Soviet equivalent to gross domestic product, fell by 13 per cent while salaries and bonuses increased by 45 per cent.

"It's a vicious circle — prices rise because there are fewer goods. Salaries have to follow prices. When there's enough money around it forces the producers to raise their prices again. And so it goes on," Mr. Boylukov said.

"It's the way to disaster, a dead end... the more money we issue for which there aren't goods to be had, the further we sink into poverty. Eventually hyperinflation will rip through the economy," he pointed out.

He said that despite the explosive growth in money emission, paying salaries still posed problems.

New 200-rouble notes would appear later this month with 500-rouble notes arriving in December. The bank was also working on the idea of a 1,000-rouble note, he said.

The maximum denomination banknote in circulation at present is the 100-rouble note.

Leading economist Grigory Yavlinsky, said last week the Soviet Union was whittling down its gold and currency reserves at a dramatic rate and faced dangers over the next year.

Mr. Yavlinsky, architect of plans for a transfer to a market economy, said the country sold off vast amounts of gold in 1990,

cutting its reserves to around 240 tonnes, approximately the present annual rate of extraction.

Currency reserves were also being exhausted, causing difficulties with repayment.

"Over one year we cut gold reserves by more than two thirds and lost our foreign currency deposits. Where will we be in a year's time?" he asked in an interview broadcast on Soviet television.

"We have pawned 110 tonnes of gold. We are unable to redeem it and it stays over there (abroad)," he added.

Another state bank official said that both wages and prices in the Soviet union should be frozen as soon as possible or citizens may soon be forced to lug suitcases filled with banknotes to buy basic goods.

Printing presses are currently churning out banknotes 24 hours a day because of the country's enormous budget deficit, according to Yuri Balagurov, managing director of the money supply department at Gosbank.

"As far as cash is concerned we are going to print as much as is needed by the population," Mr. Balagurov told the Associated Press.

"But the need has grown to an amount that was not possible to foresee, and to a level that is impossible to guarantee."

He said the problem was aggravated by a rapid increase in average wages in the past year, while manufacturing has slowed.

"Wages need a collateral in the form of goods," he said. "We have an opposite situation, wages are large and production is decreasing."

The average Soviet salary is now 330 roubles (\$594 at the official exchange rate). Before nationwide price increases went

into effect April 1, the average salary was 270 roubles (486).

Production dropped approximately 10 per cent during the first four months of this year, according to official figures.

In an attempt to minimise the number of banknotes printed, Mr. Balagurov said 200 rouble banknotes are scheduled to be printed at the beginning of October and 500 rouble notes may be printed next year.

As various republics struggle to gain independence from the Kremlin, the country will need to print even more cash, he said.

"If the republics begin to compete with each other, seeing who will offer larger salaries, less wage controls and other measures to increase peoples' incomes, then of course they will need cash," he said.

"One of the problems is that when the system was centralised, we were able to say that's enough and the printing of money stopped. Now we can't do that, because we print the money while the decision about borrowing money is made in the republics, Mr. Balagurov said.

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- Good command of the English language.

Those interested please send your C.V. in English with your recent photo to the Administrative Officer, P.O.Box 2835, Amman-Jordan

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL THE BRITISH CURRICULUM SCHOOL IN AMMAN

Applications are invited for the post of Secretary to the Head Teacher at the above school. Applicants should be good administrators, be adaptable, and have the ability to type, shorthand and be conversant with the use of a word processor. They should also have an excellent command of English. An ability to speak Arabic would be an advantage but is not essential.

For those people who have already applied for this post, they will automatically be reconsidered. They do not need to apply again. For an application form and further details please contact the Head Teacher's Secretary on 841070

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Tel. 642723 - 842471

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CONCORD

Tel: 671420

THE UNTAMED

Show: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre

Tel: 675571

Oct 3, 1991
THE OPENING OF
Nabil Al Mashini Theatre
with

SOMERSAULT TIME PLAY

Starring: The family of 'Abu Awwad neighbourhood'
Shows start at 8:30 every evening

PHILADELPHIA

Tel: 634144

Mahmoud Abdul Aziz Najah Al Mouji in THE KIT KAT (Arabic)

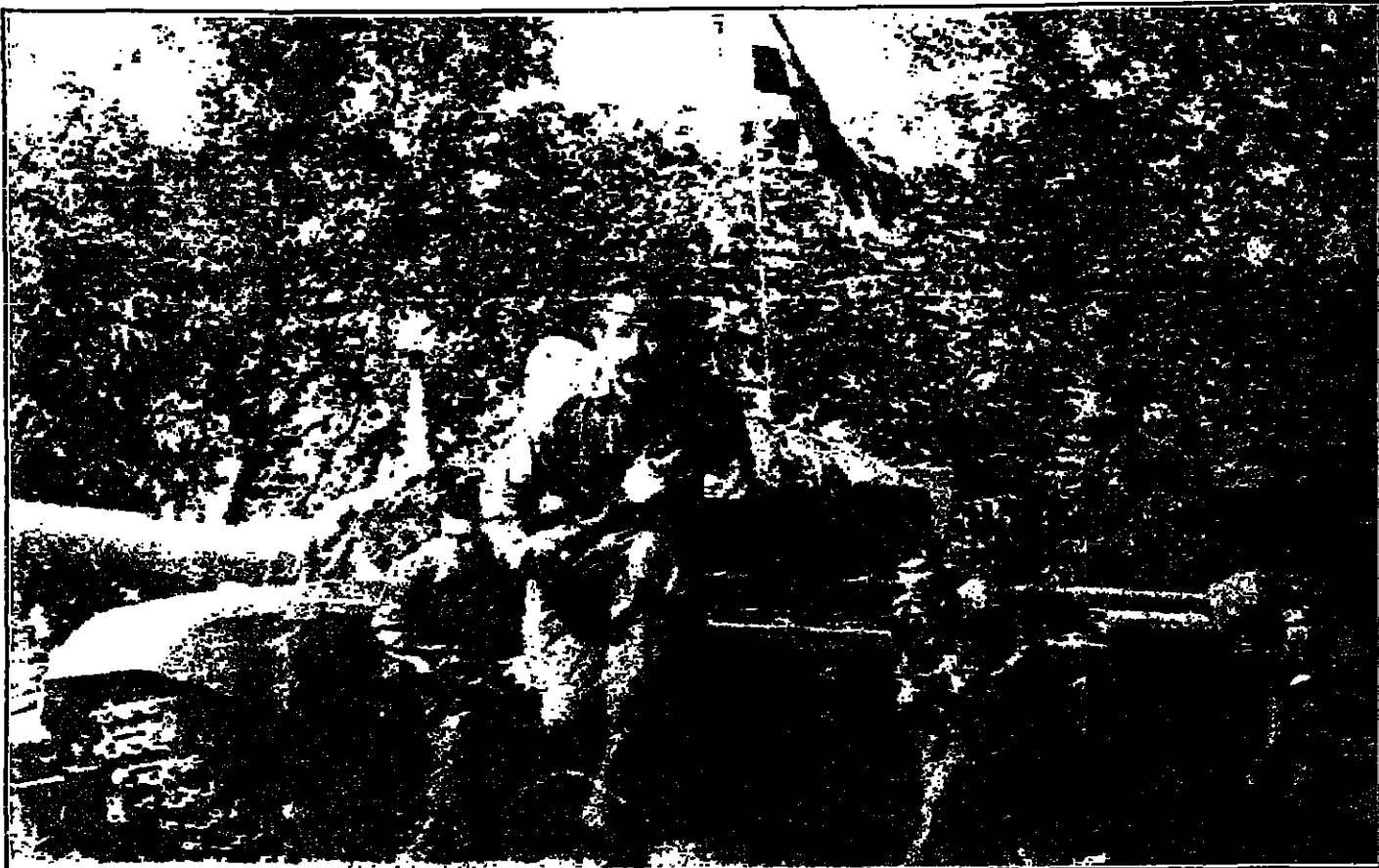
Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

RAINBOW

Tel: 625155

SATAN'S SOLUTION (Arabic)

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.



Yugoslav army soldiers leave the cover of their tank during the battle for Vukovar in Croatia.

Yugoslav army cuts off Dubrovnik, Vukovar, says time for talks over

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — The Adriatic jewel of Dubrovnik and the beleaguered Danube River town of Vukovar were reported Wednesday to be virtually cut off in fighting raging from one end of secessionist Croatia to the other.

The federal army, pressing its offensive, issued a new warning to Croatian authorities that it would not tolerate blockades and attacks on military barracks.

"This has definitely come to an end," the army said in the second warning in as many days to Croatia. It accused Croatia of going back on promises to unblock the barracks. Croatia denied the charge.

"Words will not be trusted any more," the army said.

Such blockades, which began several weeks ago, have forced many soldiers to surrender and gained badly needed military equipment for Croatia, but at the expense of bringing the army's firepower more directly to bear in the warfare in Croatia.

More than 600 people have been killed there since fighting began after Croatia's declaration of independence on June 25.

Yugoslavia's collective presidency had been scheduled to gather with indications it would be pressed for a general mobilisation. But the meeting was postponed, indicating disagreement.

The army appeared intent on taking a few remaining Croatian strongholds in a short period before desertions and poor morale

take a further toll. Croatia brings more captured weaponry to the front, and fall weather cuts military efficiency.

Despite a ceasefire declared last week, heavy fighting was reported around Vukovar and Dubrovnik Tuesday. Vukovar has been the scene of heavy fighting for many weeks, but the area around medieval Dubrovnik far down Croatia's Adriatic coast had been quiet.

Yugoslav Navy warships were reported to have blockaded the Dubrovnik harbour.

The military was shelling the outskirts of the city, but there were no reports that any shells had landed in the walled old town, a world-famous tourist destination.

Croatian TV showed film of historic Stradun Street with buildings sandbagged and churches boarded up. Other film showed fires on hills.

Croatia said Tuesday the city's water and electricity had been cut off, and on Wednesday that virtually all communications had been lost with the city. Many roads leading to Dubrovnik were blocked.

Zagreb media said one woman had been killed in the shelling and several other people were wounded.

Croatia's Defence Ministry also reported that Vukovar, on the Danube River boundary between Croatia and rival Serbia, was surrounded by the army. It lost communications with

Vukovar.

Late Tuesday, Croatian Information Minister Branko Salaj said Vukovar was under "absolutely horrible pressure."

Croatian Defence officials also reported an attack on nearby Vinkovci from the southeast, the direction of the Serbian town of Sid where armoured columns massed in recent weeks before moving into Croatia.

With the defection of hundreds of Slovene and Croatian officers, and the refusal of four republics to send any recruits to the army, the Yugoslav military is becoming increasingly dominated by ethnic Serbs.

Many of the minority ethnic Serbs in Croatia, who account for 12 per cent of the republic's 4.75 million people, want to remain part of Yugoslavia rather than be citizens of an independent Croatia. They are supported by Serbia's hardline President Slobodan Milosevic and some of the army's generals.

Rebels have occupied about one-third of Croatia and are believed to be preparing a final push to establish the boundaries of a new, Serb-dominated Yugoslavia and a smaller, weaker Croatia.

Meanwhile, Lloyd's of London Shipping Intelligence Service issued a warning Tuesday for vessels to beware of mines in Yugoslav waters.

Lloyd's circulated a navigation warning saying it was reported last Thursday that "mines have been laid in Yugoslav waters by

Croatian forces."

It said the warning was issued Monday evening in Washington. "Due to the internal civil strife in Yugoslavia, all shipping is advised to use extreme caution when transiting areas contiguous to that coastline," Lloyd's said.

In a separate development, about 30 Serbs huddled outside Belgrade's main army barracks, shouting their grievances to any general who might care to hear.

"We don't want to fight under the Communist Red Star" they yelled, referring to the army emblem. "We don't want to fight unless someone explains to us what Serbia is in this war for."

The group represented a handful of the thousands of Serbs deserting from the once-proud Yugoslav People's Army, the best-equipped fighting force in the Balkans.

The 9.5 million Serbs, Yugoslavia's largest ethnic group, are virtually the only pool left from which the army can draw the 110,000 conscripts it needs for one year of mandatory service.

Since war erupted when Slovenia and Croatia declared independence June 25, those two republics have sent no recruits.

Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, two other republics, have followed suit, leaving a heavily ethnic Serb army increasingly involved on the Serb side of an escalating war.

But, as the deserters indicated Monday, no one told Serbs why they are fighting.

Manila gives U.S. troops 3 year to withdraw

MANILA (AP) — Abandoning plans for a national referendum on retaining a U.S. naval base, President Corason Aquino said Wednesday she will give the United States no more than three years to leave its Subic Bay Naval Base.

But several senators who oppose the U.S. military presence said they believe three years is too long for the 7,000 Americans to leave Subic, the largest U.S. naval base in Asia.

The Philippine government will negotiate an executive agreement with the United States government for the withdrawal of the United States military forces within a period not exceeding three years," Mrs. Aquino said at a news conference.

Officials said U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner had been informed of the plan and had promised that Washington would support it. Committees from the two governments are expected to meet soon to begin discussing the phase-out.

The Senate has rejected a new 10-year lease for the facility, a move the president had said she would seek to overturn through a national referendum.

Mrs. Aquino said Wednesday that the three-year phase-out she supported at least 15 of the country's 23 senators. It was unclear whether she would even need senate concurrence, but the administration wants the support of two-thirds of the Senate to preclude any constitutional dispute.

Some base supporters hope that if the United States does not remove a substantial number of forces by next May's national election, the new government may reverse the Senate action.

On Sept. 16, the Senate voted 12-11 to reject an agreement under which the United States would give up Clark Air Base next year but keep Subic for 10 more years in return for \$203 million in annual compensation.

Senators said the funding was inadequate. A two-thirds vote was required for passage.

Mrs. Aquino announced she would call a "people power referendum" to save the base, which the Americans have held since they seized the islands from Spain in 1898.

But numerous constitutional experts and many of her own supporters warned that the referendum could not overturn the Senate action and "would lead to a constitutional crisis."

Having abandoned the referendum plan, Mrs. Aquino urged the Senate to come up with a timetable for the American withdrawal, although that is the responsibility of her executive branch.

Mrs. Aquino contends the one-year withdrawal plan would cause economic dislocation among the thousands of Filipinos who depend on the Americans for their livelihood.

Earlier Wednesday, Mrs. Aquino's chief aide, Franklin Drilon, said the dispute over the withdrawal may force the president to reconsider her decision not to seek re-election next year.

Mr. Drilon said he was offering his own opinion and not speaking for Mrs. Aquino, who has said repeatedly that she will not seek a second term in the May elections.

Economic union delays Soviet Union's breakup

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union's 12 remaining republics are strengthening economic ties even as political and ethnic problems rage in the Caucasus Mountains and central Asia.

The republics agreed Tuesday in a one-year economic cooperation pact to coordinate everything from communications to defence after talks in the capital of Kazakhstan, Alma-Ata.

"The process of total disintegration... can be stopped if we give top priority to political passions, but to the needs and interests of the populace," Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev told the republican leaders, according to Soviet news agencies.

Passions ran high Tuesday in the streets of Tadjikistan after the republic's Communist-dominated parliament failed to meet opposition demands to replace the newly installed Communist president, the Soviet News Agency (TASS) said.

Ten of 129 hunger strikers camped in front of Tadjikistan's parliament building were in serious condition, including popular poet Gulrukhshor Safiyeva, TASS said.

The parliament, which had rebelled against Mikhail Gorbachev's attacks on the party in the coup's aftermath, adjourned after refusing to disband its Communist Party and replace Rahman Nabiyev, even though it had agreed Monday to lift a week-old state of emergency.

In the Caucasus, prospects dimmed for settlement of the vicious conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, a mostly Armenian territory lying within predominantly Azeri territory.

Armenia's Interior Ministry accused Azerbaijan of violating a Russian-sponsored agreement reached last month with Armenia to negotiate a ceasefire and settle the conflict, the news agency Interfax said.

The Interior Ministry claimed Azerbaijani militants stepped up actions in the territory and other predominantly Armenian areas

since the accord was reached on Sept. 22. It also repeated charges that Soviet troops were taking sides in the conflict instead of policing it.

After the talks on economic union, Ivan Silayev, head of an interim committee overseeing the national economy, said, "the results were beyond expectations."

Nearly all the Soviet republics rushed to declare independence after the August coup, but most have come back to the bargaining table, recognising the need to maintain economic ties if they sever political links.

Mr. Silayev said he spoke with Mr. Gorbachev from Alma-Ata and that the president was pleasantly surprised that the talks "ripened so quickly," TASS reported.

The proposed economic treaty will be submitted to the republic governments in the next three days, after which it will be signed in stages.

A joint communique said republics would coordinate food and fuel deliveries for the rest of 1991 and 1992, and adhere to "the major principles of the economic union of sovereign states," according to Interfax.

While noting that "speedy transition to market relations (and) development of entrepreneurship is the only solution to the crisis," the republics affirmed their state control over prices, transportation, energy and information.

They agreed to coordinate fiscal and monetary policies, emphasising that any new local currencies cannot undermine the Soviet ruble for inter-republic and international trade.

The republics will promise not to impose tariffs or other trade barriers, or try to change borders for 50 years.

Eight of the republics — Russia, Kazakhstan, the Ukraine, Byelorussia, Uzbekistan, Tadjikistan, Turkmenia and Kirgizia said they are willing sign a final document by Oct. 15. Armenia, Georgia, Moldavia and Azerbaijan will sign it later.

'Soviet Far East needs food and medical aid'

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese mission to the Soviet Far East has come away convinced the region needs emergency food and medical aid soon to get it through the coming winter, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

Ambassador-at-Large Yoshitomo Tanaka, who returned Monday from an 11-day mission to the Soviet Far East, told a news conference the amount of aid required had yet to be decided.

He said the mission thought the aid should go directly to regional governments, but stopped short of saying Japan would actually deal at this level rather than through the central government.

Mr. Tanaka said he did not know if Japan would decide on the aid package before Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama visits Moscow later this month.

Government officials have said Tokyo will decide on new emergency food and medical supplies to the Soviet Union before a meeting of the Group of Seven industrial nations in Bangkok this month.

Group of Seven countries are Japan, the United States, Canada, France, Britain, Italy and Germany.

Under an aid plan decided on last year, Moscow will use a \$100-million loan from Japan's export-import bank to buy food from Japanese firms.

The government mission of 13 farm, transport, health and development experts visited Khabarovsk, Nakhodka, Vladivostok, Yakutsk and other Soviet Far East cities studying food and medical supplies.

Mr. Tanaka said the region needed milk, meat, flour, vegetable oil and sugar, as well as Aspirin and other medicines.

The Soviet Union also needed forklifts to unload cargoes from ships and refrigeration units at storage points, he said.

The Soviet Navy's main Far East base at Vladivostok is a graveyard for dozens of rusting, listing warships, according to a Japanese naval expert who visited the once secret base.

"I counted at least 22 main combat vessels all red with rust, moored lifelessly along the jeties," said Toru Kizu, editor of the monthly Sekai No Kansen (Vessels of the World).

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Britain's Labour promises to scrap House of Lords

BRIGHTON, England (R) — Britain's Labour Party said Wednesday that if it won power next year it would reform the constitution, scrapping the 300-year-old House of Lords.

Deputy leader Roy Hattersley told a party conference Labour wanted an elected upper chamber of parliament instead.

It would also set up regional assemblies to give more self-rule to Scotland, Wales and eventually English regions, and might reform a traditional first-past-the-post British electoral system which has kept the Conservatives in power for 12 years.

In the House of Lords, ermine-clad lords, some with inherited titles going back 1,000 years, bishops and other peers who are appointed by patronage enjoy power to delay laws which are sent up by the elected lower House of Commons.

"The rich and the powerful will not lightly abandon either their riches or their power," Mr. Hattersley said.

But he promised, "a truly free society... in which the privileges of a minority become the rights of every citizen" if Labour won the next general election, due by mid-1992.

Labour has abandoned much of its left-wing policy heritage but at this conference is trying to show voters it still has ideas which set it apart from the Conservative government.

Mr. Hattersley insists Labour cannot win votes without showing that it has principles and is not afraid to state them, declaring that the party is prepared to make enemies by taxing the rich and stripping away privilege to achieve equality.

Labour's leader, Neil Kinnock, has dragged his party from near-collapse in the 1980s to being neck-and-neck with the Conservatives in the opinion polls.

Some leftwingers accuse him of having jettisoned treasured socialist policies to win favour with the middle class, but Labour has shown in recent days it is ready to come out of the closet on taxation, spending plans and, now, political reform.

The Labour left wing has always disliked the House of Lords. But mixed feelings are aroused by the idea of reform of Britain's voting system under which each of 650 House of Commons constituencies is taken by the candidate who polls most votes.

Labour is galled by the way the Conservatives won two elections in a row, with less than a majority of the total national vote.

But some Labour politicians worry that proportional representation might deliver a series of coalition governments and never give the party outright power again.

Labour has now commissioned a study of differing electoral systems and expects the next election to decide the issue.

If opinion polls are a guide, an election now would deliver a 'hung' parliament in which neither the Conservatives nor Labour would have a clear majority, possibly forcing one or another to form a coalition with the minority Liberal Democrats.

Mr. Kinnock seems no longer afraid to consider such ideas. Conservative Prime Minister John Major must call an election by June 18, 1992.

New Romanian premier to give priority to economy

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania's new prime minister began looking for ministers to fill his cabinet Wednesday and said his top priority would be to redress the impoverished economy.

Theodor Stolojan, 47, a former finance minister, replaced Petre Roman who was forced to resign

after a week of political turmoil in the Balkan country sparked by riots led by miners.

Mr. Stolojan said he would build his administration by taking account of the views of all parties as expressed in coalition talks led by President Ion Iliescu over the past three days.

Army chief says Haiti coup thwarted Aristide 'dictatorship'

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (Agencies) — With soldiers still cruising a terrorised capital firing automatic weapons, Haiti's army chief claimed he was forced to oust President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to prevent another dictatorship.

Haiti's first freely elected president, forced out of the country in Monday's bloody coup, was to fly to Washington Wednesday to urge the Organisation of American States (OAS) to take collective action to restore him to power.

In Venezuela Tuesday, Mr. Aristide called for an armed U.N. force to return him to the office he had held for just seven months after an overwhelming December election victory.

President George Bush met in Washington with Haitian Ambassador Jean Casimir, suspended the \$85 million U.S. aid programme for Haiti and called for "an immediate halt to violence and the restoration of democracy."

France and Canada also halted aid programmes.

Haiti was under a 6 p.m. curfew and the morally teaming day-time streets of Port-Au-Prince, a capital of 1 million, were virtually deserted Tuesday but for military patrols.

Soldiers sped through the city

in trucks and jeeps, randomly firing in the air and occasionally at pedestrians. Two people were reported gunned down in a drive-by shooting Tuesday near the French embassy.

"The military doesn't care what they are shooting at. They're just shooting to scare people," said tourist Cathy Zimmerman, 30, of Berkeley, Calif., her voice trembling in an interview from the Olafson Hotel.

It was not known how many people died from clashes between the security forces and Mr. Aristide supporters, most of which occurred on Monday. But reports indicated the death toll exceeded 100, with hundreds wounded.

Frantz Lamothe, a photographer who visited the General Hospital morgue in central Port-Au-Prince Tuesday, said authorities reported 140 bodies at that facility alone.

"The military is in full control," he said. "They are driving all over town, 15 to 20 in pickup trucks."

Since Monday, there has been little sign of resistance to the coup. Small groups huddled near their homes as soldiers passed by, occasionally darting out later to rebuild barricades of burning tires.

In his first address to the nation

since the takeover, Brig. Gen. Raoul Cedras, the acting army commander-in-chief, said in a televised speech Tuesday that the military takeover was necessary to thwart an "apprentice dictatorship."

He accused Mr. Aristide of flagrant cronyism, abuses of the military and judicial system and attempts to establish a private militia along the lines of the Tonton Macoutes, which enforced the Duvalier family dictatorship for more than two decades until 1986.

"There was a deliberate choice not to respect democratic norms," Mr. Cedras said. "The situation threatened the country's democratic future. The nightmare of a dictator regulating all national institutions... made us fear the worst."

Gen. Cedras spoke in French and then Creole. He was seated at a bare desk in the corner of a room, in front of empty bookshelves.

While Monday night he had spoken of creating a "serene climate favourable to the next election," he made no mention of elections Tuesday.

Gen. Cedras was promoted by Mr. Aristide from colonel to brigadier general and regarded as a

moderate. But on Tuesday he gave no indication of how he intended to govern the country, only that he promised to respect the constitution and guarantee the existence of all political parties.

In an odd twist, Prime Minister Rene Preval said in a statement to the Haitian news media Tuesday that Mr. Aristide had been forced to leave the country temporarily by a "faction of the army."

The statement was distributed by a government official who said the army had not arrested any cabinet ministers.

Mr. Aristide had been accused of authoritarian tendencies and cronyism. He had given cabinet posts to friends with little or no experience in political organisations.

Not until very recently have reformers gained experience in Haitian politics. But even parties opposed to the long succession of military governments in this country, which gained independence from France in an 1804 slave revolt, accused Mr. Aristide of shutting them out of the political process.

Thousands of Aristide supporters rallied outside the legislature in August and pressured lawmakers out of a vote of no confidence

against Mr. Preval.

Mr. Aristide was also criticised for encouraging swift justice against Roger Lafontant, a former Tonton Macoutes chief convicted in 24 hours in July for a coup attempt and sentenced to life and hard labour.

The maximum legal sentence is 15 years.

The coup leader said Wednesday the former head of the feared Tonton Macoutes militia squads was killed in prison by an indiscriminate soldier during the military takeover.

Gen. Cedras told French Radio 'Lafontant' was killed Sunday night.

"He was not assassinated by the army. We have already set up an inquiry and the main culprit has been arrested. He is a soldier," Gen. Cedras said.

Accusing Aristide of threatening the country's democratic institutions, Gen. Cedras said the president's move to set up a parallel police force had been a crucial factor in the decision to stage a coup.

"This was a determining factor. The force had no legal status," he said.

"We had certain signs that revealed the government was not going to respect the normal functioning of the country's institutions," he added.

COLUMN

Gorbachev to publish short book on August coup bid

MOSCOW (R) — President Mikhail Gorbachev has written brief book on the failed coup which temporarily ousted him in August and threatened to plunge the world back into the cold war, his chief spokesman said Tuesday. "Mikhail Gorbachev has passed onto the Novosti Publishing House his book about the August events. It is called 'The August Putsch: Causes And Consequences,' Andrei Grachev told a news conference. He said the 74-page manuscript would also be published abroad, but gave no further details.

Estonia puts stamp on independence

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) — Estonians stood in line for hours to buy the first stamps issued by their newly independent government, the first such stamps issued by any of the three Baltic republics. "I'm a collector. And also I have a lot of friends abroad," said Vladimir Vies, a computer specialist who waited 45 minutes to buy the stamps. "Some people were waiting for five hours," said Vies. "We are used to waiting in lines. That's a normal life for us." Most of a half dozen Estonians interviewed at the Central Post Office said they were buying the stamps and having them cancelled on a first-day envelope to add to their collections or send to friends and relatives abroad. "It's a big chapter in Estonian history," said Ago Papp, a harbour dispatcher who said he had an extensive collection of stamps from the period before World War II when Estonia was last independent.

Truck driver says a UFO peeped into his house

BUDAPEST (R) — A saucer-shaped UFO escorted a truck driver to his home in northeast Hungary and "peeped" through the curtains, the Hungarian News Agency (MTI) reported Monday. Driver Zoltan Bartus and a companion said they noticed the luminous object as big as a full moon following their truck near the village of Szecsenyfalva early Saturday. The climbed into Bartus's house through the back window, hoping to shake the UFO, which shone a green beam into the room. Bartus's family said that as neighbourhood dogs howled, the UFO turned into a cigar-shaped object escorted by two smaller lights and disappeared.

Japanese men too lazy to make their beds

TOKYO (R) — Most Japanese men in their 40s are too lazy to do such simple tasks as cleaning shoes and making their beds, leaving the chores to their wives, a survey has said. More than 70 per cent of middle-aged husbands polled were too idle to make their beds, clear the table after meals or put away newspapers, the survey by the Leisure Development Centre showed. The centre questioned 200 middle-aged couples on their lifestyles and values. About 60 per cent of husbands polled were reluctant to take part in domestic chores such as shopping and preparing meals. Women said they would like their husbands to help more but described routine domestic chores such as cooking as a wife's job, said a spokeswoman at the centre, an affiliate of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

Lovelorn gorilla gets a lawyer

CLEVELAND (R) — Timmy, a 500 lb (225 kg) gorilla, got a lawyer to keep him near the love of his life — and away from a New York Zoo. The 35-year-old gorilla's keepers at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo want to ship him to New York's Bronx Zoo for breeding. But the move would separate Timmy from Kribe Kate, a female gorilla with whom Timmy has been inseparable since they were placed together 19 months ago. Heading protests from Timmy's fans, a San Francisco group called in defence of animals hired him a lawyer, Gloria Homalak. She said that if talks with the zoo failed, she would go to court to try to block the gorilla's trip to New York because it would traumatise him. The zoo, meanwhile, has already moved Kribe Kate out of Timmy's reach, saying she had "an infection."